

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

## Draft Minutes for February 18, 2022

### Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Chris Ellms (DOE); Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives) *via Teams*; Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Senator Kevin Avard (NH Senate); Marc Brown (BIA); Donald Perrin (DAS); Doria Brown (City of Nashua) *via Teams*; Jack Ruderman (NHHFA) *via Teams*.

Non-voting Participants: Mark Lemenager (Eversource); Mary Downes for Cindy Carroll (Unitil) *via Teams*; Carol Woods (NHEC) *via Teams*; Scott Maslansky (NHCDFA) *via Teams*; Jennifer Thornton for Matthew Siska (GDS Associates); Kim Dragoo for Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities).

Others: Elizabeth McKenna (Senator Shaheen's Office); Chris Skoglund (Clean Energy NH); Azanna Wishart (Department of Energy); Wendy Gilman (Department of Energy) *via Teams*; Kirk Stone (Department of Energy) *via Teams*; Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy) *via Teams*; Erin Cosgrove (NH Energy Partners) *via Teams*; Matt Leahy (Forest Society) *via Teams*; Beth San Soucie (Clean Energy NH) *via Teams*; Kevin Berry (PSD Consulting) *via Teams*; Jessyca Keeler (Ski NH) *via Teams*; Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH) *via Teams*; Mark Sanborn (DES); Bruce Bennett (TMC); Patrick McDermott (AARP); Samantha Caputo (Oracle) *via Teams*; Tom Rooney (TRC Solutions) *via Teams*; James Sununu (Sununu Enterprises) *via Teams*; Gregory Caggiano (Franklin Energy) *via Teams*; Andy Duncan (CCSNH.EDU) *via Teams*; Dick Henry (Jordan Institute) *via Teams*.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services with remote call-in and video capability.
- Bruce Clendenning called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

### 2. Approval of the January 21, 2022 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Don Kreis moved. Ray Burke seconded.
- Approval of the January 2022 minutes. All in favor. One abstention.

3. Presentation: Federal Infrastructure Bill – presented by Elizabeth McKenna, Us Senator Shaheen’s Special Assistant for Policy & Projects.

- The details from Ms. McKenna’s presentation are in the attached pdf.
- Key components:
- Energy Efficiency:
  - State Energy Program – funding to support transmission and distribution planning.
  - Revolving Loan Fund Capital Grant Program – to establish a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency audits, upgrades, and retrofits.
  - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants – for projects that reduce energy use and increase efficiency.
  - Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements in Schools – which includes school vehicle upgrades.
  - Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas – to increase environmental protection from impacts of energy use and to improve resilience and reliability.
- Building Codes & Workforce Development:
  - Building Code Implementation for Efficiency & Resilience – a competitive grant program to enable implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers on their energy bills.
  - Grants for Energy Efficiency and Resilience Code Adoption – to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers on their energy bills.
  - Building, Training, & Assessment Center – to provide grants to institutions of higher education to establish building training.
  - Career Skills Training – to award grants to non-profit partnerships to pay the Federal share of associated career skills training programs.
- Weatherization Assistance Program:
  - Weatherization Assistance Program – a formula grant for states to increase energy efficiency in dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons.
- Electrifying Vehicles:
  - New Hampshire will receive \$2,556,450 in fiscal year 2022 following the approval of the state’s electric vehicle infrastructure plan.
  - Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grants – DOT program that deploys EV charging and hydrogen/propane/natural gas fueling infrastructure along designated corridors.
  - Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grants – DOT program for community grants to install EV charging stations in locations on public roads, schools, parks, public parking facilities.
  - Clean School Bus Program – an EPA program that will provide funding to replace existing school buses with low or zero emission buses.

Visit [www.build.gov](http://www.build.gov) for more information

#### 4. Update on pending energy efficiency actions (PUC/Supreme Court & HB549).

- On Wednesday, the House concurred with the Senate amendment on HB549. The Governor could sign the bill as early as next week.
- There were three separate appeals to the Supreme Court in response to the PUC order. OCA withdrew their appeal when the Commission amended the order.
- The appeals brought up questions about the PUC's process of how they arrived at their decision in the order. Will the Court take up those issues?
- A distinction must be drawn between procedural concerns and whether there is a controversy for the court to resolve. There were due process concerns that could impact future cases.
- It was noted that the PUC did not withdraw its order; it issued a subsequent order to restore rates. The rest of the order remains in effect but is superseded by the provisions in HB549.
- The utilities report to the PUC is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. They are currently working on confirming inflation adjustment number for 2023.
- The next triennium begins on January 1, 2024. Thought should be given about engaging with the utilities, stakeholder processes, and program funding levels.
- It was noted that the utility programs are not static. They change with the market. There are new construction codes, and appliance standards. EMV's role is to keep up with the current standards. They need the engagement with stakeholders to ensure that the plans that are implemented are in everyone's best interests.
- An attendee asked if product programs that were slated for rebates in 2021 will miss out on funding due to the order. Answer: Even though the programs have reopened, the rebates for 2021 are no longer eligible or available.
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#### 5. Discussion of Outreach & Education Committee.

- The EESE Board, under the guidance of the Department of Energy will have a budget of approximately \$400,000 for education and outreach. Board members should reach out to Bruce Clendenning to volunteer to be on the committee and decide how to assemble and lead the group.
- Representative Vose pointed out that the Department of Energy were the principal drafters of the senate amendment for HB549. They added the language, "...as determined by the DOE..." but it was the intent of the legislation that the EESE Board would be the administrators of the committee.
- It was requested that there be one utility representative on the committee.
- An attendee asked if non-EESE Board members would be able to serve on the committee. The past Outreach and Education committee had both members and non-members.

## 6. Legislative Updates.

- A question was asked to the Board: Massachusetts has enacted increased demands for change building codes and on the construction industry to provide work and support for new building codes. Will this effect New Hampshire? Utilities responded that a study will be getting underway related to new construction practices in New Hampshire and whether those practice align with Massachusetts.
- The Science, Technology, and Energy (STE) Committee will meet on the 28<sup>th</sup> (or did meet?) to exec ten bills. They will meet on or after March 1<sup>st</sup> to exec the remaining nine. There are no additional energy efficiency bills.
- Senate still have a lot to do. There are 6 upcoming hearings.

## 7. Board & Program Updates

- Department of Energy – Chris Ellms:
  - DOE is looking at HB549 to see what role they will play to facilitate changes with the EESE Board.
  - The State Energy Strategy will be complete by the end of quarter one and will provide an update to energy committees.
  - Sustainable Energy is currently reviewing C&I competitive grants. The LMI grant is being re-issued.
- EE Committee – Chris Skoglund:
  - The Committee has not formerly been meeting. Last month the committee submitted the letter to the Governor.
  - As soon as March 1<sup>st</sup> plan is issued, the committee will discuss what their role is in the plan. They will then focus on that topic and inform any interveners in the one year-six-month plan. After that, we will move on to the original intent of the Committee.
- Nature Conservancy – Bruce Clendenning:
  - New Hampshire Energy week is in the planning stages. They are partnering with Clean Energy NH, New Hampshire Ski, and other. A new event will be a clean energy job fair. The date is April 11-15<sup>th</sup>.
- DES – Becky Ohler:
  - The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure RFP closes on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There has been a lot of interest in it.
- OCA – Don Kreis:
  - The customer data platform group submitted a plan last April. An order should be issued soon.
- EM&V:
  - A new representative is needed since Chris Skoglund left DES.

- There was discussion as to whether the representative should be an EESE Board member or not. It was noted that the role that Chris has played previously was as a liaison. It was not a decision-making role.

8. Adjourn – motion by Senator Avard. Chris Ellms seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

## **EESE Meeting 2-18-22**

Elizabeth McKenna

Special Assistant for Policy and Projects

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*Below is a highlighted selection of programs in the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act and not a comprehensive list of funding in IIJA. Please visit [www.build.gov](http://www.build.gov) for updates on IIJA funding.*

### *Energy Efficiency*

- **State Energy Program** – IIJA increased this programs funding to \$500 million nationwide to provide funding to states to support electric transmission and distribution planning as well as planning activities and programs that help reduce carbon emissions in all sectors of the economy, including the transportation sector and accelerate the use of alternative transportation fuels and vehicle electrification. Estimated first round of funds released date, 2nd quarter 2022.
- **Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program** – this new program funded at \$250,000,000 provides capitalization grants to States to establish a revolving loan fund under which the State shall provide loans and grants for energy efficiency audits, upgrades, and retrofits to increase energy efficiency and improve the comfort of buildings. The next milestone for this program has not been announced yet.
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants** – This Department of Energy block grant program will provide \$550 million to states, local governments, and tribes for projects that reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency, and cut pollution. The first funding opportunity is expected for release in the Fall of 2022. These will be competitive and block grants.
- **Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements in Schools** – This new Department of Energy Program will provide \$500 million for Consortium of One Local Education Agency and one or more Schools, Non-Profits, For-Profits, and Community Partners to make energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean vehicle upgrades and improvements at public schools. The opportunity to apply for funding is expected to be open in the Fall of 2022. This funding will be a grant.
- **Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas** – This new Department of Energy program will provide \$1 billion to entities in rural or remote areas (defined as cities, towns, or unincorporated areas with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants) to increase environmental protection from the impacts of energy use and improve resilience, reliability, safety, and availability of energy. Eligible uses of these funds include: (A) Overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems; (B) siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines; (C) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation by rural or remote areas; (D) providing or modernizing electric generation facilities; (E) developing microgrids; and (F) increasing energy efficiency. Recipients will be Industry Partners, Utilities, National Laboratories, Universities, State and Local Governments, Community Based Organizations, Tribal, and

Environmental Groups. Funding will be through a cooperative agreement. Applications for funding are expected to be open in the Fall of 2022.

*Building Codes & Workforce Development*

- **Building Codes Implementation for Efficiency and Resilience-** This grant for State and State partnerships is a competitive grant program to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers money on their energy bills. Eligible uses include: (A) To create or enable State or regional partnerships to provide training and materials to—(i) builders, contractors and subcontractors, architects, and other design and construction professionals, relating to meeting updated building energy codes in a cost-effective manner; and (ii) building code officials, relating to improving implementation of and compliance with building energy codes; (B) to collect and disseminate quantitative data on construction and codes implementation, including code pathways, performance metrics, and technologies used; (C) to develop and implement a plan for highly effective codes implementation, including measuring compliance; (D) to address various implementation needs in rural, suburban, and urban areas; and (E) to implement updates in energy codes for— (i) new residential and commercial buildings (including multifamily buildings); and (ii) additions and alterations to existing residential and commercial buildings (including multifamily buildings). Funding is expected for the end of 2022.
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Grants for Energy Efficiency and Resilience Code Adoption** – This Department of Energy program will provide \$225 million to state energy agencies, in partnership with local building code agencies, codes and standards developers, utilities, and other entities, to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers money on their energy bills. Eligible use of these funds is: (1) Development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy. (2) Retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development of such a strategy. Including—(3) conducting residential and commercial building energy audits. (4) Establishment of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. (5) The provision of grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing energy efficiency retrofits. (6) development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity. including—(A) design and operation of the programs. (B) identifying the most effective methods for achieving maximum participation and efficiency rates. (C) public education (D) measurement and verification protocols; and (E) identification of energy efficient technologies. (7) development and implementation of programs to conserve energy used in transportation. including—(A) use of flex time by employers; (B) satellite work centers. (C) development and promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development. (D) development of infrastructure, such as bike lanes and pathways and pedestrian walkways. (E) synchronization of traffic signals; and (F) other measures that increase energy efficiency and decrease energy consumption.

(8) development and implementation of building codes and inspection services to promote building energy efficiency. (9) application and implementation of energy distribution technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency. including—(A) distributed resources; and(B) district heating and cooling systems;(10) activities to increase participation and efficiency rates for material conservation programs, including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency;(11) the purchase and implementation of technologies to reduce, capture, and, to the maximum extent practicable, use methane and other greenhouse gases generated by landfills or similar sources;(12) replacement of traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies, including—(A) light emitting diodes; and(B) any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency;(13) development, implementation, and installation on or in any government building of the eligible entity of onsite renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources, including—(A) solar energy;(B) wind energy;(C) fuel cells; and(D) biomass;(14) programs for financing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure), capital investments, projects, and programs, which may include loan programs and performance contracting programs, for leveraging of additional public and private sector funds, and programs that allow rebates, grants, or other incentives for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure) measures. Funding will be block and competitive grants. Applications for funding are expected to be open by the end of 2022.

- **Building, training, and assessment center-** This program is funded at \$10 million for FY22 to provide grants to institutions of higher education to establish building training and assessment centers to educate and train building technicians and engineers on implementing modern building technologies. Applications for funding are expected to be open by the end of 2022.
- **Career Skills Training-** This programs directs the Secretary of Energy to awards grants to Non-Profit Partnerships to pay the Federal share of associated career skills training programs under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purpose of obtaining an industry-related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies. This program is funded at \$10,000,000. Estimated application opening date, 1st quarter 2023

#### *Weatherization Assistance Program*

- **Weatherization Assistance Program-** Invest \$3.5 billion in the Weatherization Assistance Program nationwide. This is a formula grant for states to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons , reduce their total residential energy expenditures, and improve their health and safety, especially low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable such as the elderly, the handicapped, and children. Estimated first round of funds released date, 1st quarter 2022.



**Electrifying Vehicles- DriveElectric.gov has additional guidance and resources relating to electric vehicle infrastructure.**

- [On February 10](#), the Administration announced the beginning of implementation of the \$5 billion in funding over five years for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The Federal Highway Administration released the NEVI Formula Program funding to states that will be available following approval of state plans for Fiscal Year 2022 in addition to the Program Guidance and a Request for Nominations for states to expand their existing Alternative Fuel Corridors. New Hampshire will receive \$2,556,450 in FY 2022 following the approval of the state's plan. In total, NH will receive \$17,271,581 over the 5 years of the program to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This program will go through NH DOT
- **Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grants (Corridor Charging)**- This is a Department of Transportation Program that will fund \$1,250,000,000 Nationwide. This program deploys electric vehicle (EV) charging and hydrogen/propane/natural gas fueling infrastructure along designated alternative fuel corridors and in communities. This is a new program and funding will be distributed in a competitive grant application to State or political subdivision of a State, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Local government, Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, Indian Tribe, Territory.
- **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants (Community Charging)** –This is a Department of Transportation Program that will fund \$1,250,000,000 Nationwide. Program funds will be made available each fiscal year for Community Grants, to install EV charging and alternative fuel in locations on public roads, schools, parks, and in publicly accessible parking facilities. These grants will be prioritized for rural areas, low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, and communities with low ratios of private parking, or high ratios of multiunit dwellings. This is a new program and funding will be distributed in a competitive grant application to State or political subdivision of a State, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Local government, Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, Indian Tribe, Territory. FHWA will publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity in 2022.
- **Clean School Bus Program**- This is an EPA program that will provide funding to replace existing school buses with low- or zero-emission school buses. The funding mechanism will be Grant, Rebate and Contract. State or local governments, eligible contractors, and nonprofit school transportation associations are authorized to receive grant funds. Fifty percent of the funds are authorized for zero-emission school buses, and 50 percent of the funds are authorized for alternative fuels and zero-emission school buses. Funds may be prioritized for rural or low-income communities and entities that have matching funds available. The EPA Administrator is authorized to provide funds to cover up to 100 percent of the costs for the replacement of the bus.