

Institute for Sustainable Energy

Board of Advisors

Draft

Advisory Board Meeting: June 7, 2010

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Chair

John Mengacci, Undersecretary, Policy Development & Planning Division, OPM

Sean West, EH&S Project Manager, United Technologies

Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services

Dana Kubachka, for Kevin DelGobbo, Dept. Public Utility Control

Staff: William Leahy, Director, ISE

Michael Pernal, Exec. VP - ECSU

Laurel Kohl, ISE

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 10.05 am. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2010 meeting by John Mengacci. Motion seconded by Sean West. The minutes were accepted.

New Business

Green Collar Jobs – Workplace, Inc - “Pathways from Poverty” grant status.

The last of the four introductory sessions started today. The process includes screening of potential participants from 12 neighborhoods completion of Orientation, Testing for math and English skills, background check, attending the introduction classes in the 4 career ladders: Green Building, Facility Management, Transportation, and Resource Management. The program, funded by a \$4 Million US DOL grant has been successfully launched. More than 750 will be screened and enrolled with a goal of 500 completing the introduction and enrolled in skill training or internship. It is expected to have 350 in job placements within 9 months. The US Secretary of Labor attended the orientation session. The program will have 14 different institutions providing training that will lead to regional and national credentials for participants. The program is a pilot for replication in urban areas around the country, and is being revised and fine-tuned as it rolls out. Bill Leahy and Joe Carbone have made a presentation about the program for the state Legislature.

The board discussed the current Home Energy Solutions program by CEEF, and that it has become more comprehensive. There is an overall concern that the ARRA funded low income weatherization programs are not funding significant improvements in the homes being served, and not serving enough customers. The spending per customer is not at a high enough level to create sustainable jobs such as home improvement contractor, insulation contractor, HVAC technician, etc.

CT Energy Sector Partnership grant status.

ISE is planning to provide technical support for the Department of Public Safety, Office of Training and Data Management, through a grant from OPM. Part of this work will include conducting a survey of energy code compliance observed by code officials. The grant covers three years of support for the DPS goal of 90% code compliance by 2012.

ISE also received a grant for providing technical courses for building officials in how renewable technologies work to support them in their inspections. Focus will include solar P V and solar thermal, geothermal. The training will take place over 2 years and include 24 days of training. There will be 5 sessions available regionally in addition to two or three events for the building officials and trade allies to meet and communicate, as this interface is viewed as one of the major challenges of compliance. The project will start on July 1.

Electric Vehicle Taskforce status.

ISE has participated in information gathering meetings since December 2009. Most auto makers are introducing electric vehicle models in the 2011 & 2012 year. The manufacturers rollouts will target sales only in states where laws are favorable for EV's. These actions will need to include code, metering and vehicle-use electric rates. Home charging should be on time-of-use meters for environmental reasons and to minimize impact on the grid, and many customers will need to upgrade electric service to accommodate charging. It was noted that EV Infrastructure is included in the initiative for the NE Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers to allow regionalization and flexibility in this compact region.

Keep Connecticut Cool Contest update.

Several board members participated in the KCC judging held in April at the Connecticut Science Center. 19 teams submitted plans. Schools from all areas of the state participated and showed their work. The event was held at the same time as the Science Center's Green Building event. Next year the program will move from a 2 year cycle to a 1 year experience. It will also be split in levels to better support the different age groups who are participating. This year students in grades 4-12, including public schools, private schools, parochial, home schoolers and afterschool programs participated. It was suggested that ISE send out notices about the winners and participants to the legislators who serve those districts.

Connecticut Technical High School Initiative status.

ISE continues to work with the Connecticut Technical High Schools to integrate Green Building Standards into their curriculum. The 5 Architectural Drafting instructors completed a LEED Green Associate training in the early spring. The group will be working together, with Laurel Kohl, to get certification by end of summer.

CCEF provided a grant with Workplace in Bridgeport, and Platt Tech in Milford to provide wind and solar technology equipment that can be used by the Tech High School during the day and by the Green-Up Bridgeport program for training in the evening.

Green Schools Advocate update.

There has been a real slowdown in school building projects and new construction over the last 1 to 2 years. 22 district building committees are active but not yet going to bid. ISE continues to

work with the districts to integrate green standards and renewable energy technologies in these projects.

ACORE update.

There was a national webinar last week for the ACORE group. Bill Leahy was one of 5 speakers. The focus was on funding sustainability and renewable projects at universities using alternative financing means. Suggestions presented included alumni funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy, endowments, and investments that would be treated like municipal bonds. Many of these projects have a much higher rate of return than traditional investments are showing. They might attract private sector capital to the renewable energy market.

BGreen2020 update.

Mayor Finch has started a Green Business Academy. UI and partners are offering courses on how to green your business including purchasing, energy efficiency, suppliers through the Bridgeport Regional Business Council.

Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Sustainability Study

ISE staff and student interns conducted an energy audit walk through and benchmarking of the forty-four buildings at the Ashford camp. Originally opened as a summer camp, it is now active all four seasons. The camp started a Green Team to identify and implement sustainable camp practices. There are no standards for Greening a camp. ISE is approaching the American Camp Association to create a model.

Connecticut State Legislation Actions

Legislation has directed ISE to work with the institutions that are providing Green Jobs training, and to also meet quarterly with the UCONN Center for Clean Energy Engineering (formerly the Fuel Cell Center).

Other Work

ISE is compiling a 10 year report of our work completed since the Institute was founded in 2001.

Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in July. We will meet again either on August 2nd or in September 13th, depending on need.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Kohl
Acting Secretary