

Institute for Sustainable Energy

Board of Advisors

**Draft**

Advisory Board Meeting: December 6, 2010

Members present:

Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services  
Dana Kubachka, Dept. of Public Utility Control  
John Mengacci, Undersecretary, Policy Development & Planning Division, OPM  
Rich Steeves, Office of Consumer Council and Chair, ECMB  
Bob Wall, Director, Energy Market Initiatives, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund

Staff: William Leahy, Director, ISE  
Laura Worthington, ISE

The meeting was called to order by John Mengacci at 10.15am. A motion was made to accept the minutes of October 4, 2010 meeting by John Mengacci. Motion seconded by Bob Wall. Accepted.

**New Business**

- Motion to approve 2011 calendar.  
Accepted.

- **Third Quarter Progress Report**

ISE completed an on-line survey of local building officials on code compliance issues. We launched a second survey to 400 licensed building code inspectors on Monday December 6<sup>th</sup>. This survey is a requirement of the ARRA State Energy Plan grant and provides training to meet the change of attaining 90% compliance to the new building codes which will go into effect in 2012. The survey aims to highlight the areas where most non-compliance exists and to offer training in these areas. ARRA grant through the DPS is for \$30,000 over a three year period.

**Green Jobs taskforce** – CT Energy Sector Workforce Partnership provides a grant to ISE for \$92,000 for training of building code inspectors about energy efficiency, High Performance Green Buildings and renewable energy systems. In May 2011 this training will move on to the topics of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and geothermal power technology applications. ISE's job will be to provide the code inspectors with hands-on training which they have not covered before. ISE will be working with Technical High Schools to provide hands on training.

**PA 10-156** – This bill addresses the alignment of training programs in state higher education systems. The aim is to identify which qualifications and credentials students will come out with once they have completed various programs. Bill has been working on this with the CCCS Soar program; including creating pathways between community college and university programs.

Bill has been invited to work on Eastern Connecticut Workforce Development Green Job advisory. He is also working with the Workplace Inc., in southwest Ct in the same capacity. Shirley suggested promoting the linkages between these WIB's with school, university and college through career fairs.

**Energy Efficiency Education** – Keep Connecticut Cool has been revamped. The contest is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Keep Connecticut Cool will now be a one year long contest with students presenting about the project completed during that specific year. There will be two workshops held for mentors and key team members. The first workshop will be held in January at Mystic Aquarium and the second in March at the CT Science Center. Final judging will be at Eastern in early June.

The NSTA will be holding its regional conference in Hartford's Convention Center in October 2011. Laurel Kohl is serving on the organizational committee for the sustainability strand.

For the [www.CTEnergyEducation.com](http://www.CTEnergyEducation.com) website, ISE has over 700 teachers regularly accessing the website and would like to find out how many teachers keep returning to use resources and how the materials are being used.

**Energy Management Courses** – Summary of Building operations course training for school administration and staff. 81 people completed the training and ISE benchmarked their school buildings a year after the training. The combined reduction of energy bills savings for participants was over \$2 Million. ISE is not totally sure how to attribute these savings as it is difficult to quantify how training has led to change in operating and purchasing behavior. It is important to note these eight school systems have 132 schools, and savings are expected to continue. It was discussed that there should be links from these schools energy savings with student education.

ISE is currently working with CMEEC to build relationships and share successes of facilities and other personnel, with teachers. ISE has received a contract from CMEEC to provide their electric customers with programs ISE already performs for CEEF participant's communities. These include offering benchmarking of municipal and school buildings, CT Energy Education and Keep Connecticut Cool programs, code training for participating towns, and a K12 School Energy Management course to school in the CMEEC communities. This contract is \$30,000 for 2011.

**Green Jobs Training** – ISE is working with the City of Bridgeport's Pathways from Poverty program. So far over 220 students have passed through the first level of training and are engaged in further skills training, job shadowing or placement.

Bill Leahy and Laura Worthington will be presenting at IREC's Green Job workforce Development conference in Saratoga Springs, NY about the nature of the curriculum development and career pathways designed for the Workplace Inc. ARRA grant.

**CEEF's eeComunities** – ISE is currently collaborating with a new program known as Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N). N2N is currently working with 8 communities across CT with the hopes of encouraging community participation in energy savings. The basis for N2N's success is that the energy efficiency message will be shared through word of

mouth between neighbors. ISE is providing the N2N staff with use of Eastern's student center to facilitate the program in this area.

**HP Schools** – ISE has completed a survey of school superintendents which shows 87 schools in CT are at the developing specifications step for developing school construction projects. However, it is important to note that there are a lot more schools that existing and need to be retrofit or re-building as new. John suggested using needs analysis including population figures as a way of finding out if towns really need new schools.

**Energy Info** – ISE staff have given 40+ presentations since June 2010.

The [www.CTEnergyInfo.com](http://www.CTEnergyInfo.com) website is still maintaining good traffic averaging about 20,000 visitors per month. ISE's CT Green Schools Info is currently under construction.

### **Review of Current Activities**

- **2011 Proposed Work Plan**

A revised work plan is being developed to be submitted to the DPUC in March. Within the work plan ISE is expanding the K12 School course and adding courses for municipal officials and the health care industry.

The DPUC has agreed to give ISE a stable budget, which will allow hiring of people to complete current and future projects. DPUC's budget order in 2008 provides ISE with \$500,000 each year.

Bill proposed that changes in the current building code which will go into effect in spring 2013 require training of not only code officials, but builders and architects too.

- **Other**

ISE will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary in spring 2011. Eastern is planning to host a celebration that may align with earth week and hopes to involve local green businesses, guest speakers, community initiatives etc. There are plans for campus tours which highlight Eastern's recognition as a Green Campus by the Princeton review.

### **Next Meeting**

Planned for February 7, 2011

Motion was made by Rich Steeves to adjourn. Motion seconded by John Mengacci. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.50 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Worthington  
Acting Secretary