

Institute for Sustainable Energy  
Board of Advisors

Board Meeting: October 3, 2005

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Board Chairman  
Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services  
Peggy Diaz for Donald Downes, Dept. of Public Utility Control  
John Mengacci, Undersecretary, Policy Development & Planning Division, OPM

Staff: William Leahy, Director of Operations, ISE  
Laurel Kohl, ISE, Acting Secretary

Guests: David Carter, President, Eastern Connecticut State University

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 10:10 a.m.

Arthur Diedrick requested that Advisory Board members consider the minutes of the August 1, 2005 meeting. A motion was made by John Mengacci to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Shirley Bergert. The motion carried.

CSU Board Renewal of ISE

William Leahy presented the proposal to the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees to renew the Institute for Sustainable Energy. The proposal will be presented to the Board of Trustees on October 6, 2005. Dr. Carter stated that he expected that ISE will be renewed for another 5 year period.

2005 ECMB Goals Progress

High School Energy Efficiency Curriculum: Laurel Kohl reported on the progress of the High School Energy Education Curriculum. The Institute will present the High School Energy Efficiency Curriculum in focus group sessions at the ISE booth at the National Science Teachers Association conference October 20-22 in Hartford at the new convention center and will conduct surveys. More than 2000 teachers are expected to attend the event. During the survey, ISE staff will explain the high school energy education program, its features and the website layout. The surveys will collect feedback from teachers about their classroom and curriculum needs as well as the teachers' impress of the program materials. In the first quarter of 2006 ISE will have teachers pilot the program material in their classrooms.

Green Campus: The fall 2005 newsletter was distributed to the board. The issue includes stories featuring examples from the Green Campus Initiative. The *Greening of Eastern* brochure was also presented to the board. It includes highlights of sustainable initiatives on Eastern campus. Energy efficiency plans are in being developed for ECSU, SCSU and WCSU. The board suggested that the *Greening of Eastern* be sent out to the Presidents of all Connecticut universities, colleges and secondary boarding schools with a cover letter from Dr. Carter. Copies should also be distributed to the legislators and energy policy makers.

Multifamily Program: Leahy reported on the activities related to the multifamily demonstration project requested by the ECMB. Projects in multifamily facilities have been a weak point in the CEEF conservation programs, as has outreach in general to low income electric customers. The multifamily demonstration project has included collaboration and planning with the HUD offices in Boston and Hartford, CHFA and CHIF financing. CHFA manages many CT properties and has shown a willingness to make energy efficiency a part of the loan process. Two workshops are planned in late October, in Shelton and New Britain. Speakers include ISE, CHFA, CHIF, HUD, Combined Heat and Power, and the utilities conservation representatives.

Building Code Training: Five training sessions on code improvements were completed in the spring with 65 of the 178 local building inspectors. Feedback indicates that inspectors would rather focus on residential housing standards and leave the project architects and the engineers to cover code compliance on large industrial/commercial projects. Spring 2006 workshops conducted by ISE, NEEP and the utilities will include a 2/3 residential-1/3 commercial focus and include multifamily building code issues. A CD of the 2005 commercial code training has been developed which can be run on typical computers, and will be made available to all inspectors.

ECMB: Web page has been developed by the ECMB for Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund using a private contractor. Shirley Bergert states that she hoped ECMB will contract with ISE to do the maintenance of the site. Shirley is suggesting that Bill Leahy be asked to sit with the ECMB as a consultant.

#### Other ISE Initiatives

High Performance Schools: The spring stakeholder process on high performance building standards for schools has been completed. The thirty stakeholders agreed that the state should adopt high performance building standards. A draft copy of the findings of the stakeholders was presented. The final draft will have pictures and graphs and be printed professionally. The report indicates the many reasons to support High Performance Schools, including cost effectiveness, healthy building environments and improved student learning. The stakeholders found a need to identify criteria but not necessarily to adopt a particular standard (i.e. LEED, Green Globes, CHPS, etc.) but that the criteria should meet those of LEED Silver.

In the legislature, Senator William's SB923 passed all appropriate committees and the Senate but was not acted on by the House before the end of session.

A Kendall Foundation grant funded the school survey that ISE is completing of existing CT schools. It will compare survey results of 250 schools with 132 Connecticut schools benchmarked using EPA Portfolio Manager. Initial results show that Connecticut schools are very inefficient because nearly 70% of CT schools were built between 1950 and 1978, before the energy crisis and before building standards for efficiency were in effect.

#### CEAB and 2006 CT Energy Plan

The initial draft of the 2006 Energy Plan has been submitted to the CEAB. There are six initiatives, including; energy efficiency, fuel diversity, distributed generation, clean energy and sustainable development, and transportation, in addition to two communication strategies. October work on the plan will include adjustments to the draft by CEAB members. November begins the forty-five day public comment and hearings stage. The Plan will be completed and

voted on by CEAB in January and sent to the Legislature. ISE and CERC are supporting the Plan with a website which will provide background information on the initiatives, case studies, links to the documents and various organizations involved. It is expected that the site will grow with the yearly versions of the Plan over time, and should track goal attainment and become a resource to leadership.

#### Biodiesel Pilot Project

Two buildings at ECSU served by a 100 hp boiler will be heated by B20 Biodiesel fuel this winter. Measuring equipment is being installed and arrangements have been made for the biofuels deliveries. According to Lawrence Berkley Lab nothing like this has been done with a commercial boiler before. It is expected that results will show that the B20 will produce up to 30% less emissions and less particulates. A Biofuels conference was held in September in New Haven. More than 60 oil dealers and 3 representatives of the legislature were present. Bill Leahy facilitated the event and spoke about the pilot at ECSU at the event. There is discussion of a state mandate for biodiesel fuels sourced from soy or yellow grease. It was suggested that ISE develop an information pamphlet about biofuels.

#### Funding

Future funding opportunities for the Institute for Sustainable Energy were discussed. ECMB budget may cover \$300,000. There may be a carryover of over \$200,000 from 2005 at end of year. The board discussed a possible state funding line for ISE based on assistance provided to the state toward energy and climate change goal achievement.

ISE has reserved space at the LOB for the CT Energy Future conference on either December 6 or 8, although CEAB is considering waiting until spring to hold the conference.

The next ISE Board of Advisors meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2005 at 10 am. Location may be in the 999 West Street location.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurel Kohl  
Acting Secretary