

Institute for Sustainable Energy  
Board of Advisors

Advisory Board Meeting: February 2, 2009

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Chair  
Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services  
Bob Wall, Director, Energy Market Initiatives, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund  
Sean West, EH&S Project Manager, United Technologies  
Peggy Diaz for Donald Downes, Dept. Public Utility Control

Staff: William Leahy, Director, ISE  
Laurel Kohl, ISE

Visitors: Michael Pernal, Executive Vice President, Eastern CT State University

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 10:05 am. The minutes of the November 3, 2008 meeting were presented. The correct date of the September 2009 meeting is September 14 not the 13<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Bob Wall to accept the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Shirley Bergert. Motion carried.

Green Schools/Green Buildings

The board asked for clarification on the state requirements for implementing this law. This will affect building projects of greater than \$5 million. There is a hold on the regulations at present. Both AIA and state building inspectors are looking for a more prescriptive modeling to prove for insulation and energy efficiency levels. The design engineer will need to sign off on the project to assure it meets the regulations. ISE is listed under the waiver clause. ISE's role in approving waivers, along with the state building inspectors office is still being determined.

2009 Projects

ISE budget for 2009 includes \$500,000 from DPUC, \$100,000 in contracted fees from CCEF (which runs from Sept 2008 to Sept 2009). \$50,000 in the Biofuel Grant that covers workshops to be completed by July 1. This total for the working budget is \$650,000. The potential for cutback in funding of the CEEF was discussed as Gov. Rell is working to balance large budget deficits. Funding from CCEF and CEEF may be redirected to the general fund. This is expected to affect all programs from both organizations.

Programs Updates

CT Technical High Schools

ISE cohosted the October professional development day that was attended by 380 trade and science teachers from the Tech schools. There were general topic conversations in the morning on Green Jobs topics and breakout sessions in the afternoon with trade and science teachers to discuss where Green topics fit in their curricula. Bill is working with the Architectural Drafting teachers and building trades areas. Among the goals are for each school to build its own eco classroom on site, and to possibly expand that program to sell the modular buildings. Bill will attend the Green Jobs event in Washington. Laurel is working with the science coordinator to expand their curriculum.

EPA meeting at Eastern

ISE is hosting a meeting of the regional representative and EPA staff at Eastern on March 26.

K-12 Energy Management Training

2 sections of the facility manager training have been completed this fall, including a group of 18 from Bridgeport, Stamford and Trumbull, and another 17 from Cromwell, Rocky Hill and Durham/Middlefield. Another section of the course with the CT Building and Grounds Association with 35 members will continue into the spring. ISE expects to continue the program with 2 groups starting this spring, including New Haven area districts, and Hartford area districts.

ISE is looking at other uses for the course, including focusing on health care facilities, such as nursing homes and general small business customers. It is expected that ECMB funding to expand the program will be made available in the next budget. The board questioned whether subgroups could support the costs of presenting the training and if the course could be developed in partnership with Continuing Education at the University, expanding with a distance learning component.

#### CTEnergyEducation

Laurel is working with the tech school science coordinator in expanding use of the program to meet the needs of the tech school classes.

#### New School LEED Requirements

The new law requires that buildings be built to LEED Silver or equivalent. The governor's office released the regulations last week. The AG's office and legislature need to review them. The law as written affects buildings built with bond money allocations after January 2009. ISE has been instrumental in the process of creating this law. It was found in our stakeholder groups that intervention is needed at many place in the design/building process to create sustainable buildings. Initial work must take place well before the design document and budget approval stages. There are many school projects now in feasibility and specifications stages that can benefit from Green Design work. ISE is keeping a database of schools that are in the various stages of building process. ISE has made presentations to many of the boards and building committees and is actively working with 11 towns on 17 new buildings.

The board questioned the added costs of Green Design. It has been found to have about a 2% adder for design and modeling required. New Jersey has required Green Design for about 6 years now, and after initial higher costs, finds that the actual building in no more cost than standard building techniques. As the state's architects and builders learn the process and find the green sources needed for materials, the costs of these processes decrease. The new buildings at LEED silver are at least 21% more energy efficient than code and are showing savings of 20-40% in energy cost savings compared to code-built buildings.

CT GBC is developing case studies to help promote these projects. New Haven is redoing their whole building stock to reduce energy bills. ISE is working with them to update the benchmarking. New Haven's new and renovated buildings are showing a 50% decrease in BTU/sq ft from original buildings.

The board questioned if there might be opportunity to teach the LEED AP course. It was also suggested to feature best practices case studies on the [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) site. Sean West shared that UTC has developed a wiki (user editable) site for the corporation that shares its best practices, material procurement sources and other information that would be of use to improve the sustainability of UTC installations. This might be a model for info sharing in the state.

#### [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

DPUC has completed many new updates to the website. Usage is up slightly with about 7200 unique users each month. About 115 sites are linked through the site, including information on buying electricity and seeking energy assistance.

#### CT Conservation Program Review

The legislative report examined conservation programs in the state. One of the findings is that there is little coordination of programs. It was questioned how the [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) site assists in linking programs and users. The site has been recently redesigned with Mintz and Hoke. The new design offers a

user choice to select residential vs. commercial users to help focus the user on appropriate offering of program links. It was noted that the OneThing website is now down. It was questioned if some of the content from that site could be moved to the [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) site.

#### Legislative Activity, 2009

Energy and Technology, along with Environment are expected to produce many new bills that will be of common interest to ISE and its focus. Biosludge—the waste brown grease—is a focus at this time. It is regulated, but not of use to biofuel makers. It is also a large problem for sewerage treatment plants.

Green Jobs is a focus of the legislature, especially with its link to funding in the economic recovery package expected from Washington. The exact focuses of that funding have shifted as the package has been developed. Expected programs to be funded with the package comes out include Green Schools construction, infrastructure improvements and training in green collar workforce. 10% of the funding is expected to go to state governments, with 90% going to private sector projects. The training money is of special interest to ISE, with a target set to have trained individuals within 24 months of the release of the funding. There is also much interest in the state about who/which organization will make decisions on how funding released to Connecticut will be allocated.

ISE sees possibilities in Green Schools projects, funding some K-12 projects that have stalled due to funding. Revitalization of Urban Areas is also a package focus. ISE is working with Bridgeport on developing a model for Green Cities. Bill serves as a subcommittee co-chair of one of 5 technical committees. The plan is funded by the US League of Mayors. Mayor Finch co-chairs the plan with DEP commissioner McCarthy.

The next board meeting will be held on March 2.

Motion by Shirley Bergert to adjourn. Motion seconded by Bob Wall. Motion carried.  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurel Kohl  
Acting Secretary