

Institute for Sustainable Energy
Board of Advisors

Advisory Board Meeting: April 6, 2009

Members present:

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

Meeting was called to order by John Mengacci at 10:12 am.

William Leahy will present the ISE year end review this Wednesday at the ECMB meeting. The document was reviewed with the ISE Board.

CT Energy Education – the Keep Connecticut Cool Challenge has 18 teams participating. We may be able to hold the judging at the new CT Science Center which is due to open at the end of May.

Building Code Training—Bill has been meeting with the CT Building Code Review Committee, a group that meets regularly. There is a move in the state to mirror acceptance of the latest ASHRAE and IECC Codes, moving them quickly to state acceptance in the month following their release. Currently the system lags behind the release of new codes by 2 to 3 years.

ARRA funding—there was a press release on the Governor's website that states that she will maintain the current funding for the CEEF and CCEF funds, as a requirement of Connecticut receiving further funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy under ARRA.

State Vocational High Schools and Green Jobs—Bill has been working with the architectural drafting program instructors and construction trade curriculum coordinators to upgrade the programs being offered in the CT Technical High Schools. The follow-up of the October workshop is that the trades will work together to evaluate and enhance the curriculum in these areas, including creating a capstone activity that will feature “green technologies” in a team approach. There are also plans to build a high efficiency module building on each campus starting in 2010, and expanding that program.

Green Campus—ISE is discussing having a statewide workshop for campus green initiatives. Target dates for this are either by the end of April or in the early fall.

K-12 Building Operators Course—ISE will be working with the districts involved with the pilot courses to evaluate the course by quantify building energy management savings. This will take place in September to October 2009 as many districts use the summertime to complete system updates and projects. A new course will be starting with New Haven Public Schools. 2 classes have been completed and the CT Building and Grounds Association class is wrapping up in June.

CT Energy Info—DPUC completed some publicity and education with state legislators, featuring information available through the portal site. Last month the site had 8900 unique visitors. ISE has also been answering calls from the 1-877-WISE USE hotline.

The Climate Change Steering Committee is working with grant funding and was looking for immediate opportunities for energy improvement. Bill identified and suggested the state prison system as a partner in this effort. ISE benchmarked the Department of Corrections system last fall. Their director has been identifying many efficiency improvement opportunities since he started in his current job in 2004 and is eager to implement change.

Governor's Executive Order 23-- ISE is involved in several of the initiatives noted in this document, especially those involving Green Jobs. This document lays out plans for the Community Colleges to provide national certification programs in energy efficiency. Bill has met with the Deans of Continuing Education for all 12 Community Colleges to explain Green collar Jobs and work toward developing certification courses in energy efficiency and renewable energy technology. ARRA funding is encouraging family supporting, career tracking sustainable jobs, and the creation of job ladders.

Bridgeport Sustainability Plan—BGreen 2020—There are 6 subcommittees working to create a dynamic plan to turn Bridgeport into a Sustainable Community. Bill is working on the weatherization component, Green energy and green buildings, and creating career paths to Green Collar Jobs. It was suggested by the board that he work with the Community Economic Development Fund and their Business Skills Institute. Bill is also working with New Britain and Windham to develop similar weatherization skills modules.

In the Legislature—RB 1129 and RB 1130 bills are looking to enhance the Energy Efficiency Partners program. There is also a Pilot Model Community program in which UI and CL&P will fund 2 towns with \$30 Million. An Act Creating an Energy Strategy Board looks at the distribution of federal incentive money through ARRA. RB 1135 funds underserved cities, including those with high unemployment. This provides additional support for programs that address low income households.

Green Jobs Conference—there was a workshop sponsored by EPA and NESCAUM last week, hosted by ISE at Eastern. 120 attendees from public, municipal, and private organizations attended.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Kohl
Acting Secretary