

Sustainable Energy Utility Task Force
www.seu-de.org

Meeting Date: December 12, 2006

Meeting location: Newark Courtyard Marriott, Newark

Meeting Time: 10:00am

In attendance:

Task Force Members:

Senator Harris McDowell, Co-chair

Dr. John Byrne, Co-chair

Senator Gary Simpson

Mr. John Citrolo, Division of the Public Advocate

Mr. Charlie Smisson, State Energy Coordinator

Mr. Drew Slater, Office of the Delaware Senate

Technical Consultant:

Ralph Nigro, Applied Energy Group

Members of the Public:

Representative John Kowalko

Sally Buttner, Division of the Public Advocate

Paul Sample, Legislative Council

Steve Beard, Newark Conservation Advisory Com.

Hue Grant, AIA Delaware

Scott Johnson, Solar Dock

Ruth Ann Purchase, Greenbridge CDC

Darlene Battle, ACORN

Ron Zink, Sierra Club

Brian Gallagher, DE Million Solar Roofs

Kenneth Mulholland

Task Force Staff:

Becky Walker

Jason Houck

Jackson Schreiber

Wayne Romanowski, PR

Bridin Reynolds, PR

MINUTES

Introduction

Senator McDowell introduced and welcomed Task Force member Drew Slater.

All present were provided with an agenda and a copy of the November 13th meeting minutes. Task Force members approved and adopted the minutes.

Senator McDowell proposed, and the Task Force agreed to create four sub-advisory working groups: green buildings, weatherization, commercial and industrial programs, and creative financing.

Hue, representing the Delaware Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), spoke briefly about the US Green Building Council's and AIA's green building initiatives, and their goal to improve the design and efficiency of buildings.

Senator McDowell introduced Ralph Nigro, technical consultant to the Task Force, who presented a proposed administrative model for a Sustainable Energy Utility in Delaware.

Presentation: Proposal for a Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility Model

Ralph Nigro's presentation, which is available at www.seu-de.org/documents.html, gave a refresher of the SEU concept, including structure, goals, oversight, management, and implementation. He then briefly reviewed the administrative structure of both Vermont and New Jersey's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Ralph outlined key goals for Delaware's SEU: the SEU must be a direct, single point-of-contact; the SEU must leverage private sector implementation; and there must be adequate and independent monitoring and verification mechanisms in place.

Ralph then presented the proposed SEU administrative model, the details of which are available in the online presentation. Key administrative roles presented:

- An oversight board, including but not limited to, Members of the Legislature, that is responsible for setting targets, comprised of members of the legislature, that is responsible for strategic management and policy functions
- The Delaware Energy Office, which implements strategic management and policy functions, and serves as the supervisor of the SEU, contract administrator, and the fiscal agent.
- The Contract Administrator, which is competitively bid, assists the Energy Office in assuring contract compliance.
- The Fiscal Agent, which is competitively bid, assists the Energy Office in appropriately disbursing funds to the SEU. responsible for ensuring that funds disbursed to the SEU are
- The SEU, which is competitively contracted by the Energy Office, oversees program planning and implementation.
- Implementation contractors are competitively contracted agents responsible for SEU program delivery.

Open Discussion:

- After the presentation there was general discussion about the Delaware Energy Office, its role in the proposed SEU model, and how the Energy Office has the ability to perform research and administrative functions internally, and can also contract with the private sector.
- A public member recommended that the SEU have strong support for program improvement functions.

- Dr. Byrne commented on the structural similarities between the proposed SEU model and Delaware's exemplary weatherization program.
- There was general discussion about SEU financing options for program activities including the possibility of offering low or zero-interest loans, and shared savings programs.

The Task Force requested comments on the proposed SEU model, and agreed to let the subgroups work through January to present comments at the next meeting.

Senator McDowell proposed, and the Task Force agreed, to consider supporting a doubling of Delaware's Green Energy Fund, an increase in the net-metering limit, a doubling of Delaware's RPS, and to research how Delaware could participate in New Jersey's market for solar renewable energy certificates.

The Task Force agreed to hold the next meeting on February 6th.