

Meeting Minutes – February 6th, 2007
Sustainable Energy Utility Task Force
www.seu-de.org

Meeting Date: February 6th, 2007

Meeting Location: Thomas Collins Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Dover

Meeting time: 3:30pm

In Attendance:

Task Force Members:

Senator Harris McDowell, Chair

Dr. John Byrne, Co-Chair, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, U. of Delaware

Senator Charles Copeland

Representative Vincent Lofink

Representative Terry Schooley

Representative Pam Thornburg

Mr. Charlie Smission, State Energy Coordinator

Ms. Dominique Baron, Delaware Nature Society

Mr. Keith Lake, Peoples Settlement Association

Mr. Drew Slater, Office of Delaware State Senate

Affordable Energy Working Group

Mr. Ken Davis, Delaware Weatherization Program Manager

Mr. Bill Pelham, Policy Chair, State Weatherization Program

Members of the Public:

Sally Buttner, Division of Public Advocate

Brian Gallagher, DE Million Solar Roofs

Tim Rennick, Observer

Paul Sample, DE Technical Advisory Office

Scott Johnson, Solar Dock

Phil Cherry, Pollution Prevention, DNREC

Task Force Staff:

Jason Houck, CEEP

Rebecca Walker, CEEP

Jackson Schreiber, CEEP

Huei Wong, CEEP

Wayne Romanowski

MINUTES

Introduction

Senator McDowell welcomed new members Senator Copeland and Representatives Schooley, Lofink, and Thornburg.

The Task Force adopted the December 12th meeting minutes.

Dr. Byrne provided a brief overview of the SEU Task Force's mission and progress to date. His discussion followed a handout which is available on www.seu-de.org/documents.html. He emphasized the following points:

- The focus of the SEU Task Force is on end-use energy efficiency and customer-sited renewable energy in all energy sectors (agriculture, buildings, industry, transportation, and residences).
- The Task Force Briefing Book and proposed SEU program models are based on the experiences of six state pioneers that have had ambitious state-wide programs to promote end-use energy efficiency, customer-sited renewables, and affordable energy for more than five years (some for more than ten years).
- Energy efficiency is an energy resource that has met a large percentage of U.S. energy needs over the last thirty years.
- According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, energy efficiency will become the single greatest energy resource over the next twenty years.
- The performance of other states' energy efficiency programs demonstrates energy efficiency usually costs 3-4 cents per kilowatt-hour saved, while retail electricity costs around 12-15 cents per kilowatt-hour.
- In states with ambitious renewable energy policies, the levelized-cost of renewable energy is roughly equal to that of retail electricity.
- The proposed Delaware SEU model is based on initiatives in Vermont and New Jersey. The Delaware SEU model would encourage private-sector implementation of sustainable energy services with public oversight of contracts, program targets, and performance evaluation

Senator Copeland raised questions about how the SEU would be funded and the public funding levels it might need. Dr. Byrne responded that there are many options available, including different sources of public funds and leveraged private funds. He explained that working groups and staff will outline proposed funding mechanisms and amounts at a future SEU Task Force meeting.

Representative Thornburg asked if the SEU would offer specific programs targeted to the agriculture sector similar to the ongoing "PV for Poultry" project in Southern Delaware. Dr. Byrne replied that these types of programs fit within the scope of the proposed SEU model, and that the SEU would develop programs accessible to all energy end-users in Delaware. He noted that his center, the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy (CEEP), participated in the design of the PV project underway at a facility owned by Allen Foods.

Senator McDowell provided an overview of the draft SEU legislation, which is available at www.seu-de.org/documents.html. Senator McDowell emphasized that this draft legislation is preliminary and is open to comment and revision by the Task Force. Senator McDowell requested Task Force members to review the proposed language and send comments and suggested revisions to Senator McDowell (harris.mcdowell@state.de.us) with a copy to Jason Houck (jason.houck@state.de.us). Senator McDowell explained that

the draft legislation is available to the public, and the Task Force welcomes any constructive comments.

Senator McDowell and Dr. Byrne gave an overview of the SEU's proposed initial performance targets. Dr. Byrne indicated that the 30% aggregate energy reduction target is supported by two existing analytical reports - the Governor's Energy Task Force report, and the Delaware Climate Action Plan (both are available at www.seu-de.org/documents.html) – as well as research conducted by the Task Force staff.

Ken Davis, chair of the Affordable Energy Working Group, proposed weatherization performance targets for the SEU. These targets are based on Delaware's weatherization needs in excess of current capacity to serve low and moderate-income households. Both Mr. Davis and Keith Lake, Task Force member, explained that the actual need for affordable energy services in Delaware could be at least 2-3 times higher than the proposed targets, since such services are also offered informally by community organizations, especially churches, but are unreported at this time.

Mr. Davis and Dr. Byrne also explained that the organization of Delaware's Weatherization Assistance Program, which relies on nonprofit and private sector program implementation, is similar to that proposed for the SEU.

Upon a motion by Dr. Byrne and seconded by Representatives Lofink and Schooley and Mr. Lake, the Task Force authorized Senator McDowell to represent the Task Force and its work before the Public Service Commission.

Due to the length of the meeting, the Task Force agreed to wait until the next meeting to address green buildings, net-metering and Delaware's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

The next Task Force meeting will be held in Dover, at a location soon to be determined, at 3:30pm on Tuesday, February 20th.