

Collaborative Workgroup Updates

Workgroup A – Valuing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in NH’s building stock

After reviewing the DOE Home Energy Score Pilot Program, connecting with the DOE staff and technical advisors, and participating in the DOE Home Energy Score webinar, members of Workgroup A were in support of testing the DOE Home Energy Score Pilot Program. Workgroup members, from different fronts, connected with DOE and were successful in gaining access into the DOE Pilot Program to begin testing the energy sticker software. Members of the Workgroup are working with technical advisors at DOE to connect the TREAT software used in our Weatherization and Better Buildings Programs to the DOE Home Energy Score software. Members of the Workgroup met with the NH Office of Energy and Planning to bring their expertise into the pilot and gain additional support for testing, reviewing and reporting on the program back to DOE.

Workgroup B - Expanding the energy efficiency and renewable energy service industry through state and local government purchasing

The staff of the Collaborative has successfully initiated the next phase of the development of the Workgroup B proposal for the “Reverse RFP” and the “Innovative Technology Waiver Process”. The proposal was presented to the Interagency Energy Efficiency Committee (IEEC), which includes many State agency commissioners and directors, and to the EESE Board’s Municipal Energy Working Group (MEWG). The presentations were both well received and each group provided initial and optimistic feedback concerning the barriers to the concepts and the solutions to those barriers.

As a result of its discussions, the IEEC created a sub-group of its members to develop the concept further as it had the potential to address a critical need for additional financial resources and for a mechanism to advance EE and RE project development in State buildings and reduce long-term energy costs for the State. It was observed that the proposal was already well fleshed out but more work was needed to quickly identify the policies that would need to be revised in the 2011-2012 legislative session.

The MEWG was also interested in seeing a refined proposal. Due to the similarity between the IEEC’s and MEWG’s comments and concerns and due to their shared membership, the version developed for the IEEC will be adapted to municipalities and presented at the MEWG’s April meeting.

Workgroup C – Support and Amendments to the NH Renewable Portfolio Standards

The Workgroup C report is online and available for members of the Workgroup to share with their constituents and to incorporate the Workgroup’s options for consideration into RPS review and study processes. The Workgroup C final report has been sent to the NH Public Utilities Commission to be included in the 2011 RPS Review and has also been sent to the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) who has been hired through the SB 323 Study to review and make recommendations on NH’s energy programs and policies.