

## CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium (CTEWDC) Meeting Notes

Monday, May 15, 2017 at 1:00 PM

### Attendees:

Joe Ryzewski, co-chair (UI/AVANGRID), Peter Angelastro (Naugatuck Valley Community College), Merilee Baker Roussat (Gateway Community College), Sheri Borrelli (UI/AVANGRID), Tom Burns (Workforce Development Solutions), Leticia Colon (Energy Efficiencies Solutions), Andrea Comer (CBIA), Crystal Decarlo (Eversource), Nancy Dittes (CT DEEP), Jennifer Duggan (CBIA), Kyle Ellsworth (Efficiency for All), Eric Gribin (Tunxis Community College), Alice Martin (UI/AVANGRID), Diana McCarthy-Bercury (Eversource), John Mitchell (HPACT), Lynn Stoddard (Institute for Sustainable Energy), Gretchen Tondorf (Eversource), Susan Winkel (United Illuminating)

### Welcome/Introductions

### Committee Reports

- Question was asked about how to join one of the CTEWDC committees. Andrea Comer offered to send out via distribution list an outline of criteria, duties, and roles of each committee. She asked that members respond to Therese Wallace if interested in a particular committee. Therese will maintain a list of interested members and forward to committee chairs.
- Executive Committee: Co-chair Mary Ann Miller (Iroquois) retired. Executive Committee is looking for a co-chair - a member of good standing who attends meetings. Joe Ryzewski opened up the position to the floor and has also previously approached Laurie Shuckerow (Eversource) to consider the position. Joe distributed copies of the updated (5/5/17) by-laws.
- Education Committee: No update from last meeting.
- Business Community: Co-Chair Diana McCarthy-Bercury reported that they have drafted a mission statement: *Mission Statement – The purpose of the business community subcommittee is to support an open dialogue between business and industry and the workforce development community to evaluate the industry needs/gaps and create workforce solutions. The subcommittee looks to collaborate with stakeholders on an annual basis to identify solutions and streamline training and certification to support CT businesses working in energy and new emerging related industries.*

#### Areas of focus:

- Standards in Certifications
- Innovations in Energy Technology
- Warehouse of eligible candidates for employment
- Stream line apprenticeship program for entry level jobs in energy

The first meeting of the Business Community Committee will be held in August (either Aug 1, 3 or 10) from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at a TBD location. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss membership

interest, workforce and certification needs of partners, and a roundtable discussion with employers to better understand energy efficiency workforce needs – does CT have the educational programs in place to support small businesses?

- **Policy Committee:** Leticia Colon went over some of the energy bills that are currently being debated during this legislative session. (1) SB 973 would establish a state residential sustainable energy program for the purpose of financing energy improvements (called RPACE). This would compete with the Energize CT program. She handed out some literature discussing the problems with this bill. (2) SB 106 is a mechanism for baseload energy resources to sell power to electric utilities, increase the renewable portfolio standard, require electric distribution companies to solicit long-term contracts for zero emission renewable energy credits and low-emission renewable energy credits for an additional year and allow electric distribution companies to acquire new fuel cell electricity generation and (3) a shared solar bill.

Joe Ryzewski asked Leticia to head up the Policy Committee and she accepted.

### **Updates and Roundtable Discussion**

Leticia Colon, Diane Duva and Eric Gribin met with Mark Stankiewicz and Todd Birch of the CT Department of Labor to discuss the status of the Energy Efficiency (EE) sector apprenticeship program. Previously DEEP had submitted to DOL an employer designed on-the-job training program (with a curriculum) customized to EE employer needs and asked that the sector be included in a \$5 million apprenticeship grant from the federal Department of Labor. The state DOL submitted the apprenticeship grant proposal to include the health care sector, the manufacturing sector, and the IT sector but EE was not specifically mentioned.

There was much discussion about how to get the EE sector back into the apprenticeship grant. Kyle Ellsworth from Efficiency for All is working on updating the apprenticeship curriculum to conform to the required DOL form and will be done by August 1st. Tom Burns and Andrea Comer were careful to point out that current statistics from the CT Employment & Training Commission chaired by Don Shubert indicate that EE is not a critical sector (some statistics indicate the sector is losing jobs – although there are many different ways to measure the energy sector). In order to get grant money, employers need to prove that there is a huge gap between workforce needs and actual workforce.

Action plan #1: It was decided that this special initiative requires a new subcommittee called the “Workforce Funding Initiative” committee. Kyle Ellsworth agreed to chair the new subcommittee. As stated previously, Andrea Comer will send out a description of each committee and Therese Wallace will send Kyle the contact information concerning members interested in joining.

Action plan #2: Leticia Colon will develop a summary of where the EE apprenticeship program stands now at the DOL. Eric Gribin and the Education committee will draft a letter by August to the state DOL on behalf of the CTEWDC strongly endorsing the EE apprenticeship program.

Other items discussed:

Andrea Comer and Tom Burns will present the results of the Energy Workforce Development Survey on June 16<sup>th</sup> at CBIA's Energy & Environment Conference at the Marriott in Farmington. The regional director of the EPA is scheduled to be the keynote speaker for the event.

Eric Gribin's Energy Management Program at Tunxis has doubled its enrollment from last year. He distributed a Hartford Business Journal article about the program (also posted on the Get Into Energy CT website). Tunxis is one of only 4 colleges that have nationally approved Certified Energy Manager (CEM) programs.

Eric Gribin is presenting a DEEP sponsored webinar about the Applied Associate of Science (A.A.S.) Degree in Energy Management on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. Jennifer Duggan will distribute the information about the webinar to CTEWDC members.

Members asked about the 2017 CBIA "What's the Deal" conference. Can an Energy Workforce Development panel discussion (which includes CTEWDC members) be added to the agenda? Andrea Comer volunteered to make some inquiries.

Naugatuck Community College and Gateway Community College expressed interest in developing programs (credit and/or non-credit) that address EE workforce needs (without replicating Tunxis CC's program).

Members felt that the August roundtable meeting of the Business Community Subcommittee should include discussion with EE employers about the apprenticeship program to gain employer support.

### **Summary of Action Items**

- Andrea Comer to send out description of all subcommittees to members. Members who would like to participate in a subcommittee should forward interest to Therese Wallace.
- Business Community subcommittee to hold roundtable employer meeting beginning of August.
- Workforce Funding Initiative subcommittee led by Kyle Elliott will begin by recruiting members and also work with Business Community subcommittee concerning August meeting.
- Members to send event dates and details for posting on the website calendar to Therese Wallace.

**Next Meeting Date** – September 12, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM