

Policy and Legislation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2020
6:00 pm - 7:39 pm
via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

Time	Item	Team Member
6-6:10	Welcome, Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reminder of timeline, goals, and provided SWOC analysis from full task force	Keni
6:10-7:00	Review Research from identified "O"s; discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none">BethLindseyLindsayKeniMattOther research	Matt guides each team member summarizing their notes
7:00-7:15	Identify priorities, eliminate unnecessary items	Matt
7:15-7:30	Next Steps, AOB, and Adjourn	Matt

Present: Matt Williams, Keni Rienks, Beth Hansen, Ed Ablard, Steve Frank, Lindsay Lake

Absent: Lindsey Hallock

Denotes individual action items.

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

- Keni Rienks summarized the subcommittee and full task force timeline, subcommittee goals, and SWOC analysis from the last task force meeting.
- Matt Williams led the discussion with subcommittee members on specific areas of research:
 - Beth Hanson's report:
 - Cities Initiative Group - cities cannot have more stringent guidelines than the state; our policies need to look beyond the city codes
 - State Building Council - no 'sustainability' member at this time, so who is considering green initiatives?; recommendation: state building codes

- need to be strengthened/adjusted for clean energy technology (i.e. roof strength to hold solar panels)
 - Financing green energy - Green Energy Banks may be a long-term recommendation, but this may be a hard sell in NC
 - Low-income Energy Efficiency - Asheville and Buncombe County have this system in place, could be a good model; perhaps partner with WARM in Wilmington? (Matt looking into this through his contact)
- Lindsay Lake's report:
 - C-PACE - needs renewal (appears to have "expired" on July 1, 2020?); none active in NC; not feasible for city initiatives, but could be for a state-wide one; good model in Arkansas of two cities; perhaps we could pioneer our own system?
 - QECB's - Did not seem feasible
- Keni Rienks' report:
 - Green Buildings/Codes - research will need to be narrowed on this upon further assessment of priorities
 - Duke Energy Green Source - still a potential opportunity; From HB589, solar energy available to big business/consumers; 250 MW University of North Carolina institutions, 250 MW will for our large non-residential customers ; that the program will close when the 600 MW capacity is fully subscribed; As of June 9, 2020, 31.9 MW is available for eligible business customers; Program participants may request capacity up to 125% of their aggregate maximum annual peak demand; Steve contacting the City of Charlotte on their program
- Matt William's report:
 - City structure roof square footage - discussed with David, needs further review; initial resolution is that there is not enough surface area to warrant small-scale usage (more cost-effective for larger-scale projects); perhaps open city park spaces, parking structures?; Matt looking into a discussion with David for next week
 - Net-metering - based on usage vs. generation (we need to know city's usage); net-metering may be ending?; Keni contacting a colleague from Acadia Energy Center for clarification
- Ed Ablard comments:
 - Climatecrisis.house.gov proposes initiatives; this could potentially bring bonds back
 - Eagle Solar - leasing solar panel space as opposed to purchasing?: examples of this being done on churches
 - Contact City Lobbyist?
- Subcommittee members discussed priority areas for further research:
 - permitting for offshore wind, onshore wind, and possibly current-driven turbines in the Cape Fear River

- Incentives - state-level tax credits?; federal tax credits going away?
- Members emailing more thoughts to Matt and Keni by July 21st to be prepared for full task force meeting on the 28th

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Areas of Research

What?	Who?	By?
Investigate potential incentives the city can create to increase clean energy usage in private companies and public. (Property tax breaks Determine renters vs owners in the housing market and how that would impact incentives.) (Rick will forward some info)		July 28
Research "O": Local incentives https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?fromSir=0&state=NC http://ncsolarcen-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SR-1-Policy-Sheet_NC_Apr-2019.pdf		July 28
Research "O": Local incubator for start-ups/new tech		July 28
Determine City of Wilmington 2005 energy usage numbers - NC wants a 40% reduction of 2005 levels by 2025 and 70% reduction by 2030 (to line up with the Paris Climate Agreement)		July 28
Brainstorm/research any legislative framework/s that New Hanover County, UNCW, Port of Wilmington, Hospital, ILM Airport surrounding counties, etc. can easily join. (Want to take advantage of county and state-owned property in city limits.)		July 28
Wind research: offshore wind regulations/permitting		July 28
Wind research: current onshore wind regulations/permitting		July 28
Hydrology research: Current turbine regulations/permitting		July 28
NC Assembly - Harper & Deb - What is going on elsewhere in the state? Get the "lay of the land"? (City lobbyist?)		July 28

Conversation with David Ingram	Beth	July 14
Research "O": Other NC/State City Clean Energy	Beth	July 14
Green Energy Bank	Beth	July 14
Energy efficiency with focus on low-income residential	Beth	July 14
Research "O": <u>SolSmart</u> Program	Lindsey	July 14
<p>Research "O": Financing schemes like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. C-PACE Legislation b. CREBS (Clean Renewable Energy Bonds) or QECBS https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/3098 IRS authority rekindled. c. Department of Agriculture https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/2511 d. New State Legislation for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds that are tax exempt e. New State Legislation for Clean Renewable Energy financing for Non-profits including religious entities 	Lindsay	July 14
Research "O": Green Building Policy (city, county, state?)	Keni	July 14
<p>Research "O": Duke Green Source Advantage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. From HB589, solar energy available to big business/consumers B. 250 MW University of North Carolina institutions, 250 MW will for our large non-residential customers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. that the program will close when the 600 MW capacity is fully subscribed b. As of June 9, 2020, 31.9 MW is available for eligible business customers C. Program participants may request capacity up to 125% of their aggregate maximum annual peak demand 	Keni	July 14
<p>Solar energy research: generate list of all city buildings & their usage; note ones utilizing solar energy w/data; determine square footage of city owned roofs and the power each roof could collect with solar</p> <p>(Have emailed David Ingram to look into these numbers.)</p>	Matt	July 14
<p>Net-metering</p> <p>https://publicstaff.nc.gov/electric/net-metering#self-generation-1</p>	Matt	July 14

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Read HB589	All	June 23
Read items in subcommittee Dropbox folder	All	June 23
Read June 23 meeting agenda and SWOT slides	All	June 23