

IL Income Qualified Energy Efficiency Accountability Committee

IQ Joint Full Committee Meeting

Monday, September 26, 2022

1:00-3:00

Attendee List and Meeting Notes

Attendee List

Adam Fields, Ameren Illinois

Alan Elliott, Opinion Dynamics

Alex Deeb, Leidos

Amy Jewel, Elevate Energy

Annette Beitel, Future Energy Enterprises (IQ Committee Facilitator)

Arlinda Bajrami, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Becky Wilson, BCMW Community Services

Bob Keefe, Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)

Celia Colón, Giving Others Dreams G.O.D

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Chet Kolodziej, Energy Efficiency and Solar System Advisor

Elena Savona, Elevate Energy

Elizabeth Horne, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Staff

Erika Dominick, Walker Miller Energy

Jennifer Michael, Ameren Illinois

Jennifer Schmidt, Illinois Power Agency (IPA) Staff

Jim Zolnieriek, ICC Staff

John Carroll, Ameren Illinois

Julie Hollensbe, ComEd

Lance Escue, Ameren Illinois

LaShelle Newland, Resource Innovations

Laura Oakleaf, Elevate Energy; Illinois Solar for All Administrator

Lawrence Kotewa, Elevate Energy

Lisa Miranda, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago

Marissa Strassel, MUSE Community + Design

Mary Ellen Guest, Historic Chicago Bungalow Association

Mary Johnson, Resource Innovations

Michael Carroll, CMC Energy

Naomi Davis, Blacks in Green

Nelson May, Future Energy Enterprises (IQ Committee Facilitation Team)

Philip Halliburton, ComEd

Ronna Abshire, ICC Staff

Sarah Moskowitz, Citizens Utility Board

Sharon Lewis, Meadows Eastside Community Resource Organization

Stephen Robinson, Northwest Austin Council

Theresa Collins, Senior Services Plus

Thomas Drea, Ameren Illinois

Tisha Burnside, Resource Innovations

William Davis, Bronzeville Community Development Partnership (CDP)

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions of:

- Annette Beitel, Sr. Facilitator
- Naomi Davis, IQ-N Leadership Team Member
- Steve Robinson, IQ-N Leadership Team Member

Overview: Key Recent Federal Laws, Bob Keefe – E2 Executive Director ([Presentation](#))

Climate Change is an Economic Issue

- \$1.9 billion average annual cost from climate disasters
 - 20 years ago: Average annual cost of \$100 million

Economic cost is just the beginning

- Homeowner insurance: +40% / decade
- Crop insurance: +\$27B in additional cost since 1991
- Fire suppression cost: \$4B in 2021, twice of that in 2020

Policy changes are cause for optimism

- State/regional level:
 - Climate & Equitable Jobs Act
 - Advanced Clean Trucks
 - Building Decarbonization
- Federal Level:
 - **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, \$550 billion**
 - Public transit & passenger rail and bridges (\$215B)

- Clean drinking water/lead pipes (\$55B)
- Clean energy transmission (\$65B)
- EV infrastructure (\$7.5B)
- Electric buses (\$5B)
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**
 - \$370 billion in clean energy tax credits and investments
 - 30% tax credit for renewables and storage for 10 years
 - \$7,500/\$4,000 tax credits for EVs
 - \$27B Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Green Bank)
 - Rebates for EE appliances/heat pumps

Energy Efficiency Investments under IRA

- Covers 100% electrification for low-income households, 50% for moderate income homes (up to \$14,000)
- Average household energy savings: \$1,800 per year
 - (Heat pump+ heat pump HW heater+ EV+ solar)

Income Qualified communities

- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Green Bank):** 50% of investments in clean energy startups/projects in disadvantaged/income-qualified communities
- **Solar:** 20% bonus tax credit for solar, storage projects in affordable housing, low-income communities; 10% bonus for fossil-fuel dependent communities
- **New programs** for EE and water efficiency in affordable housing developments
- **EJ community block grants** (\$3B) to support disadvantaged communities, ports, etc.

Illinois

- **Savings**
 - 30% tax credits for clean energy equipment
 - Grants for state/local building code improvements that would save new Illinois homeowners an average of 10% or \$194/year
- **Investments**
 - \$18 billion in large-scale clean energy, storage
 - +280,000 for household's rooftop solar
- **Jobs:**
 - Clean energy jobs today: 120,800
 - Clean energy jobs by 2030: *480,000**

Q&A with Bob Keefe and Naomi Davis

Opening remarks from Bob Keefe:

- Clean energy has a diversity problem (overwhelmingly white males)
- Hispanic and Latino community holds low paying clean energy jobs (construction)
- Need to create jobs with equity in mind
- How do we address diversity issues in clean energy?

Question 1: How is the money flowing through communities? What metrics have been identified?

Answer 1: Biden administration has emphasized sending money to communities and businesses of color. At E2, we are observing how this is implemented and how it will impact communities. Need to ensure that the administration lives up to their promises.

Question 2: How do we maximize funding to disadvantaged communities that is not specifically targeted for disadvantaged communities?

Answer 2: Keep pushing. The EPA is planning to soon start an Environmental Justice organization which will allocate \$3 billion to communities.

Question 3: Are you able to map the veinous system of how money is moving through organizations?

Answer 3: Tax credits from the IRS, rebates from DOE, grants from the EPA/DOC. All lead to John Podesta, the senior advisor on clean energy innovation and implementation. John Podesta will ensure that money will be distributed with an emphasis on diversity.

Question 4: Community benefits agreements, heat pumps, wiring, etc., have billions flowing to manufacturers. How do manufacturers create relationships with communities of color?

Answer 4: Need to make sure that jobs created pay properly, have apprenticeship programs, and have structured givebacks.

Question 5: What is the pipeline that connects jobs and entrepreneurs to these companies?

Answer 5: Need to make sure unions are doing their part.

Question 6: Taxing pollution at its source, what are laws that hold corporations responsible?

Answer 6: Not something that we have been focused on, more focused on federal initiatives.

Question 7: How are career opportunities made available to BIPOC? What are some best practices? Through education or advertising?

Answer 7: American Association of Blacks in Energy has been doing great work in this field.

Illinois Solar for All, Laura Oakleaf – Associate Director, Illinois Solar for All (Elevate Energy, on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency ([Presentation](#)))

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Overview

- Made possible by the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) and updated by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
- Provides incentives to help make solar installations in income-eligible and environmental justice communities more affordable
- Administered by Elevate on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency (IPA)
- Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program) - market rate program in Illinois

Who is Illinois Solar for All for?

- Income-eligible residents (including renters) and affordable housing owners
- Institutions serving income-eligible communities
 - Non-profits
 - Public facilities

Illinois Solar for All Subprograms

- Small Residential (1-4 unit): \$11,887,500 annual budget
 - No upfront cost to participants
- Non-Profit and Public Facilities: \$16,125,000 annual budget
 - For non-profit or public sector facilities serving and located in income-eligible or Environmental Justice Communities
- Community Solar: \$26,000,000 annual budget

- Income-eligible residents can subscribe
- Large Residential (5+ Unit): \$11,887,500 annual budget
 - 50% of tenants must be income-eligible
- Have experienced issues with potential clients believing that the offer is “too good to be true”
- Main two implementers of solar are Sunrun and GRNE Solar

Program Benefits

- Consumer Protections
 - Solar companies must register with the program
 - Follow Consumer Protection Handbook
 - Program Administrator Reviews Projects
- Participants in Illinois Solar for All must see benefits associated with solar projects, either:
 - Direct Benefits via lowered Electricity bills
 - Indirect benefits (master-metered residential buildings) via rent discounts, stabilized rent, free internet, etc.

Income Eligibility

- Maximum income per household per county
- Participation in LIHEAP, SNAP, IHWAP or Medicaid
 - Just show award letter
- Confirm eligibility directly with Elevate

Savings

- Indirect benefits must be at least 50% or the value of the energy generated
- Average savings of more than \$1000 annually on electric bills

What Does my Property Need?

- Roof installation:
 - Roof must be in good condition and will not need to be replaced within 15 years
 - Roof should be free from shading and other obstructions
- Ground mount installations:
 - Foundation must support solar system
 - Foundation cannot be a high flood risk

Case Study: Lytese Dubois, Marynook Chicago

- Total cost: \$0
- Estimated savings on electricity costs:
 - First year: \$987
 - Over length of 15.5-year contract: \$17,018

What is Community Solar?

- Solar panels are installed somewhere in the community
- Anyone with an electricity bill in the project's utility territory can subscribe to begin accessing solar energy for their home
- Each subscriber is credited with electricity created by tier share of the solar project directly on their bill

- Find Community Solar Projects accepting subscribers [here](#)

Non-profits and Public Facilities

- Non-profit organizations and public entities must be in either an Environmental Justice Community and/or an Income-eligible Community
- Non-profits and public facilities can rent or own their buildings and properties
- Require input and connection to low-income community
- Must be considered a “Critical Service Provider” included but not limited to:
 - Public schools
 - Fire stations
 - Municipal administration offices
 - Libraries
 - Places of worship
 - Homeless shelters
 - Hospitals, health care facilities, and clinics
 - Job training and workforce development services

Key Recent Program Updates

- Starting with Project Submission for
 - Residential and Non-Profit and Public Facilities on October 31st, 2022
 - Community Solar on January 30th, 2023
- New Program Updates Include:
 - New and emerging programs from CEJA and the 2022 plan
 - New Consumer Protection Handbook

- Streamlining Processes for AV's
- Updated income eligibility guidelines
- New Sub-program names

Stakeholder Engagement Plans

The program administrator and the IPA will be doing stakeholder engagement and asking for comments on the following in the upcoming months

- Vendor Manual
 - Draft and Redline ([draft link](#) & [redline](#))
 - Comments due: October 7th, 2022, at 12:00PM CDT
 - Final Document will be published ahead of the first window opening and a training session will be scheduled for Approved Vendors
- Project Selection Protocol ([link to document](#))
- Consumer Protection Handbook Disclosures
- Pilot Programs listed in 2022 Plan
 - Program Delivery
 - Home Repairs and Upgrades

ICC Proceedings: “Beneficial Electrification” Proceeding and Equitable Energy Upgrade Program (EEUP), Celia Johnson – Sr. Facilitator, Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group ([Presentation](#))

Beneficial Electrification

- EV Act required the ICC to initiate a Beneficial Electrification Workshop Process
 - ICC held workshops from November 2021 to February 2022

- Meeting materials and workshop recordings: [Beneficial Electrification Workshops 20212022 \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- EV Act required Ameren Illinois and ComEd to file Beneficial Electrification Plans with the ICC by July 1, 2022
 - Beneficial Electrification Plans are currently under review by the ICC
 - Programs are anticipated to start in early 2023
- The utilities' Beneficial Electrification Plans must address equity and environmental justice
 - Ensure there are opportunities for eligible communities to participate and benefit from beneficial electrification programs
 - Supporting investment in charging equipment in or serving EJ, low-income, and eligible communities
 - Supporting investment in electrifying medium-duty and heavy-duty school buses and public transportation vehicles located in, or serving EJ, low-income, and eligible communities
 - Contributing to improving air quality in eligible communities who disproportionately suffer from emissions from the medium-duty and heavy-duty transportation sector

Beneficial Electrification – Next Steps

- Both Beneficial Electrification Plan dockets are being litigated at the ICC
 - The Ameren Illinois Company Beneficial Electrification Plan is filed in ICC Docket No. 22-0431: [Case Details for 22-0431 \(illinois.gov\)](#)

- The Commonwealth Edison Company Beneficial Electrification Plan is filed in ICC Docket No. 22-0432: [Case Details for 22-0432 \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/icc/cases/22-0432)
- Beneficial Electrification Plans must be approved by March 2023; programs anticipated to begin early 2023
- After Plans are approved, additional information will be available about opportunities to participate in the programs

Equitable Energy Upgrade Program

- One new provision is the development and implementation of the Equitable Energy Upgrade Program (EEUP)
- EEUP will be offered by Ameren Illinois and ComEd
- ICC must establish program guidelines that utilities must follow when implementing the program
- ICC is holding EEUP Workshops to develop guidelines and implement the EEUP statutory requirements

What is the Equitable Energy Upgrade Program?

- Tariffed on-bill financing for energy upgrades
- Eligible projects include energy efficiency, customer-sited renewables, energy storage, demand response equipment
- EEUP shall be designed to provide customers with immediate financial savings if they participate
- Utility recovers cost over time through fixed monthly charge on customer's bill

- Customer's repayment obligation tied to the utility meter, not who occupies the residence

Equitable Energy Upgrade Program – Next Steps

- ICC is holding monthly EEUP Workshop meetings
 - Goal is to develop EEUP rules, inform future information filings by Ameren Illinois and ComEd
 - The next meeting is scheduled on October 25
 - Contact Jennifer Morris to join the Workshop distribution list:
Jennifer.Morris@illinois.gov
 - Additional information: [Equitable Energy Upgrade Program](#)