



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 22-08-07
INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM CYCLE 01

DOCKET NO. 23-08-07
INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM CYCLE 02

INNOVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING– AGENDA
(October 24, 2023, 3:00pm – 4:30pm EST)

The ninth meeting of the Innovation Advisory Council (IAC) was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. All participants joined via a Teams conference call.

Agenda

3:00 p.m. Councilmember Attendance & Motions

* indicates designated representative

| Agency/Party | Representative | Attendance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| CT PURA | Julia Dumaine* | X |
| | Patrick Fryer | X |
| | Danielle Chaloux | X |
| CT DEEP | Lidia Ruppert* | X |
| | Dino Pascua | X |
| | Sabrina Xie | X |
| | Eric Annes | X |
| | Ashley Marshall | X |
| CT Green Bank | Sara Harari* | X |
| | Laura Sobocinski | |
| CT OCC | Bill Dornbos* | |
| CT Innovations | Konstantine Drakonakis* | |
| | Pauline Murphy | |
| | Drew D'Alelio | X |
| | Matt McCooee | |
| Eversource | Amy Findlay* | |
| | Steve Bruno | X |
| | Jennifer Schilling | |
| | Ghani Ramdani | |
| | Mark Lemenager | X |
| United Illuminating | Ted Novicki* | X |
| | Sean Sullivan | X |
| CTNext | Onyeka Obiocha* | |
| Yale Carbon Containment Lab | Anastasia O'Rourke* | |

Others Present: Eli Asher (Strategen), Micah Feigelson (Strategen)

3:03 p.m. Call to Order

- Julia Dumaine, the co-chair of the Innovation Advisory Council (IAC) called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.
 - Ms. Dumaine noted that the docket is moving to 23-08-07 for Cycle 2 to reflect the preparation and commencement of Cycle 2 for the IES Program.

3:03 p.m. Approving previous IAC Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Dumaine motioned for the IAC to approve past meeting minutes for the following IAC Meetings. The minutes had been circulated to members prior to the meeting:
 - August 2022
 - September 2022
 - October 2022
 - December 2022
 - June 2023
 - August 2023
 - July 2023
- The motion was seconded, and all IAC meeting minutes were approved.

3:06 p.m. Discussion of EDC Annual Implementation Plan Filing (Cycle 2)

- Mr. Novicki introduced the Cycle 2 EDC Implementation Plan Filing, in coordination with Eversource, with three project categories:
 - Clean renewable energy projects;
 - Beneficial building projects not already covered by C&LM programs;
 - Ms. Dumaine asked what the EDC processes were for determining C&LM project eligibility.
 - Mr. Novicki responded that EDCs would base their IES program eligibility on the innovation potential of project proposals, particularly for projects not yet present in CT.
 - Mr. Ramdani responded that innovative projects that would be ineligible for C&LM would be under consideration for the IES program.
 - Mr. Bruno clarified that the C&LM program was focused on building electrification, not transportation electrification.
 - Transportation electrification projects not already covered by other CT Programs.
- Mr. Annes introduced himself to the IAC as a member of the CT DEEP team. He then asked the IAC how the IES Program determines innovation for applicant eligibility.

- Ms. Dumaine responded that the IES Program requires prospective applicants to demonstrate how their project would address an identifiable gap in current Connecticut EDC offerings.
- Mr. Novicki responded that technologies should be scalable, advance decarbonization, and support the electric grid, as part of the eligibility criteria.

3:47 p.m. Discussion and Vote on Cycle 2 Theme

- Mr. Asher reintroduced himself to the IAC as a member of the Strategen team supporting PURA as a Program Administrator.
- Mr. Asher reminded IAC members of the document detailing Cycle 2 Theme choices was sent to IAC members in preparation for today's discussion and vote for the Cycle 2 theme.
- Mr. Asher introduced the "Beneficial Electrification" theme and clarified that projects that fit within the C&LM program would be excluded.
 - Mr. Novicki noted that there are a lot of attainable and scalable opportunities under this theme, especially for items like fleet conversions.
- Mr. Asher introduced the "Reducing Barriers to DER Deployment" theme.
 - Ms. Dumaine stated her recommendation for the "Reducing Barriers to DER Deployment" theme, in part because she has seen a significant amount of miscommunication and misinformation for public understanding of DER deployments, EDC requirements, and PURA responsibilities as the energy transition grows.
 - Ms. O'Rourke mentioned that the "Reducing Barriers to DER Deployment" theme is structured as a regulatory problem, but the likely solutions are not regulatory in nature.
 - Ms. Dumaine mentioned solutions not related to interconnections, such as training local officials, could be incorporated under this theme.
 - Mr. Novicki suggested that the "Reducing Barriers to DER Deployment" theme sounds like a marketing-oriented solution, rather than depending upon a technological solution.
- Mr. Asher introduced the "Resilience" theme.
 - Ms. O'Rourke asked what types of projects would likely be considered under the Resilience theme.
 - Mr. Asher clarified that the "Resilience" theme could support the EDCs to scope innovative resilience projects that go beyond the traditional EDC scope.
 - Ms. Harari added that EDCs are incentivized to invest in reliability, potentially at a high cost, which third parties could support at lower costs with innovative solutions.

- Mr. Novicki mentioned that the EDCs are holistically investigating resiliency funding at regional and federal levels, which could complicate the mandate of IES eligibility efforts.
 - Ms. Harari stated her recommendation for the “Resilience” theme because it offers a funding source for a sector that is traditionally difficult to innovate in. Many current resiliency projects need to be deployed at a large scale to realize efficiencies, which may complicate the IES eligibility process and scale.
 - Ms. Dumaine seconded a preference for the “Resilience” theme, mentioning that climate adaptation strategies like innovative power outage insurance models could be implemented.
- Mr. Asher introduced the “Smart Cities” theme and noted that this theme might be a better fit for a future cycle.
 - Ms. Dumaine clarified that the Smart Cities theme might be a better fit for a future cycle because she believed the IAC needed to clarify the theme’s focus and scope.
 - Mr. Novicki mentioned that UI has been in contact with several CT municipalities on topics relating to this theme.
 - Ms. Harari asked if Smart Cities could be voted upon as a priority theme for Cycle 3 at this time, with the IAC further defining the theme areas in the meantime.
 - Mr. Asher responded that announcing Cycle 3 might work best when the Program Administrator announces its recommendations in Cycle 2
 - Ms. Dumaine determined that the IAC should revisit the “Smart Cities” (potentially rebranded to “Smart Communities”) theme in February 2024, in preparation for consideration of Cycle 3 themes during the summer of 2024.
- Ms. Ruppert asked if more than one theme could be included as Priority Themes for Cycle 2, to encourage more applications. Projects could then be narrowed further, potentially with the IAC, in Phase 1 and Phase 2.
 - Ms. Harari mentioned that a specific theme could help target potential applicants and marketing efforts, especially for stakeholders within Connecticut.
 - Ms. Harari suggested that “Reducing Barriers to DER Deployment” could be expanded to go beyond interconnection-specific efforts.
 - Ms. Dumaine clarified that Cycle 1 had over 50 applicants, which provided a sufficient applicant pool for applicant consideration in Phase 2 of Cycle 1.
 - Mr. Asher mentioned that the Cycle 2’s applicant pool may not correlate with Cycle 1’s due to external factors like word of mouth and suggested that the administrative burden for overseeing Cycle

2 may increase if significantly more applications arrive under two themes.

- Ms. O'Rourke mentioned that the IAC could vote for the Cycle 3 theme at an earlier point than Cycle 2, to help applicants prepare their Cycle 3 applications.
- Due to time constraints, the IAC determined that the Program Administration team would send a poll within 48 hours of the October IAC meeting for each IAC member to rank their preferred Cycle 2 themes.

4:06 p.m. Discussion of DEEP Concerns Re: Cycle 1 Project

- Ms. Dumaine motioned that the remainder of this meeting be considered for Executive Session.
 - Ms. Harari seconded, and the IAC voted affirmatively for the motion.

4:35 p.m. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Dumaine at 4:40 p.m.