

Energy Efficiency and Conservation – Working Group Kick-Off Meeting

February 29, 2016; 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Meeting Summary¹

I. Meeting Objectives

- Explain approach to working group meetings and member contributions.
- Introduce working group topics and scope for discussion moving forward.
- Engage in a high-level conversation about Iowa's opportunities and challenges as it relates to energy.
- Begin identifying programs, policies, and initiatives that work well and could serve as best practices.

II. Questions for Discussion

- What do you think is the biggest opportunity that Iowa has as it relates to energy?
- What are the greatest challenges for the future?
- From your perspective what are some existing energy policies and programs that are exemplary and work well?
- Are you aware of any best practices in terms of policies and programs from the region or other states that would be beneficial to Iowa?

III. Summary of Key Comments

What do you think is the biggest opportunity that Iowa has as it relates to energy?

- There is an opportunity to enforce building codes and increase education of the public, however, building design is as just as important as building codes.
- Buildings retrofits should be planned standards improved.
- Conservation needs to be approached from the perspective of cradle-to-grave with a recognition of various financial streams.
- Energy affordability is critical.
- Energy efficiency provides quick paybacks. It is important that we do not lose sight of energy efficiency as renewable energy continues to grow. How do we deal with a lack of interest from the public?
- Performance contracting needs enabling legislation.
- High performance building design where cost of ownership is included should be considered.
- Utility programs that incentivize energy efficiency are critical.
 - Equity of programming is extremely important. We need to engage low-income

¹ *Disclaimer: The ideas and items included in this document represent a high level summary of what was discussed during the meeting as interpreted by multiple staff assisting in the note-taking process. They are not to be construed as verbatim comments from any working group member.*

- individuals as well as small businesses.
- An opportunity exists to focus on energy users by groups or categories, for example healthcare or data center users.
- Consider lifecycle cost analysis.

What are the greatest challenges for the future?

- The sustainability piece needs to be a part of the debate on conservation. The financials are important but so too are the environmental and social impacts.
- What happens when the energy efficiency low-hanging fruit is fully tapped? How do we get to a deeper level of energy savings?
- Lack of public education and consumer awareness is a constant issue.
- Energy efficiency is not always critical to the end user and other issues are seemingly more important. How do we bring this to the forefront?
- A collaborative approach to energy program planning is needed.
- Changes to energy program funding levels and various opt-outs or opt-ins and the associated impacts (both positive and negative) must be considered.
- Demand response would be a good opportunity but we would need to focus on time of use pricing for all customer classes.

From your perspective what are some existing energy policies and programs that are exemplary and work well?

- Home Energy Savers, a program where the utility shares the cost with the weatherization agency, is a best practice to assist low-income customers.
- Demand response programs, including residential thermostat programs, have had positive results in other locations.

Are you aware of any best practices in terms of policies and programs from the region or other states that would be beneficial to Iowa?

- Alliant Energy's C&I Custom Rebate program is a best practice and has worked very well for customers.
- Grid modernization activities are moving forward across the country with a potential for improved delivery and service for customers.

IV. Comments and Questions Received from the Public

- There is public policy, such as increased property taxes applied on a perceived value increase of property, that dis-incent energy efficiency.
- Consider operational efficiencies for energy.