

## Energy Efficiency and Conservation – Working Group Kick-Off Meeting

February 29, 2016; 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

### Meeting Summary<sup>1</sup>

#### 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

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<sup>1</sup> *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.