



HIGH PERFORMANCE PUBLIC BUILDINGS LEADERSHIP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2014: 9:00AM-3:00PM

LOCATION: [EPA NEW ENGLAND HEADQUARTERS, 5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, BOSTON, MA](#)
ROOM: Leighton Hall

AGENDA

- 8:30-9:00 **Check in & Light Refreshments**
- 9:00-9:30 **Introductions**
- Name, organization, and what you'd like to get out of today
- 9:30-10:15 **Regional Roundup**
- Participants provide a brief update on municipal energy efficiency efforts and high performance public building construction/retrofit in their states:
 - What barriers limit municipal energy efficiency or public building new construction/retrofit efforts?
 - Give an example of a related project or event of interest in your state.
 - Featured States include:
 - Maine (*Nancy Smith*, [GrowSmart Maine](#))
 - Rhode Island (*Rachel Sholly*, [Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources](#))
 - Vermont (*Richard Donnelly*, [Vermont Energy Investment Corporation](#))
 - Pennsylvania (*Libby Dodson*, [Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection](#))
 - Delaware (*Crystal Nagyiski*, [DE Dept. of Natural Resources and Environ. Control](#))
 - Massachusetts (*Aimee Powelka*, [Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources](#))
- 10:15-10:45 **Streamlining Utility Data Access for Public Sector Buildings**
- Understanding energy usage trends is a vital component of any municipal energy efficiency program. Yet, many municipalities have dozens or hundreds of utility meters to keep track of. Learn about efforts of the US Department of Energy, and others who are taking steps to streamline access to municipal energy usage information including support of the Green Button Initiative, Electronic Data Interchange, and Automated Benchmarking Efforts.
(Mona Khalil, [US Department of Energy](#))
- Discussion Questions:**
- How can we best disseminate the available utility data access options to municipalities who may be unaware of current opportunities?
 - How can we encourage more utilities to adopt tools to streamline data access for municipalities which might also be applicable in the broader building sector?
 - What role can third party data aggregators play in the processing of utility data for states and municipalities?
- 10:45-11:00 **Coffee Break**

About NEEP's High Performance Public Buildings Project:

The [High Performance Buildings Project](#) has been developed to promote operational energy savings via municipal energy efficiency and high performance public building construction or retrofit throughout the region. NEEP's vision is that the work done today on High Performance Buildings will pave the way toward Zero Net Energy.



11:00-11:30

Benchmarking Public Sector Buildings

- If the first step of any successful municipal energy efficiency program is accessing utility data, the next step is benchmarking. Several states around our region including New York, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Vermont actively benchmark their public buildings.

(Linda Darveau, [US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1](#))

(Kristina DiSanto, [University of Rhode Island](#))

Discussion Questions:

1. Can building energy benchmarking data be used by utility program administrators (et.al.) to: (1) identify energy savings opportunities; or (2) measure and verify projected energy savings?
2. How does a state or municipal building energy benchmarking policy compliment the US Department of Energy's work with the Better Buildings Challenge?
3. Academia has played an integral role in the rollout of building energy benchmarking policies, both in the public and private sector. How can we build upon the Rhode Island model to encourage the proliferation of this union?

11:30-12:15

Building Asset Rating

- Asset Rating Programs represent an opportunity for building owners and operators to identify building energy savings opportunities without engaging in a full scale ASHRAE Level II Audit. Learn about initiatives at the US Department of Energy and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources support Building Asset Rating.

(Andrew Burr, [Department of Energy](#))

(Ian Finlayson/Alex Pollard, [Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources](#))

(Kevin Rose, [Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships](#))

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we ensure that investors perceive building asset ratings as investment grade, or at least comparable to an ASHRAE Level II Audit?
2. Can public buildings serve as a bridge between commercial building pilot programs and widespread deployment of building asset rating?
3. How can the lessons learned from the Massachusetts/DOE rating pilots be utilized to inform rating initiatives in other states?

12:30-1:15

LUNCH

1:15-2:00

Financing Energy Upgrades with Revolving Loan Funds

- Energy upgrades can often pay for themselves far before their useful lifecycle has expired. Yet, many municipalities are unable to bridge the gap between capital budgets and operating costs. Learn how various states and municipalities have directed capital to energy upgrades, including how the state of Vermont has used the GRITS tools to administer their Green Revolving Fund for public buildings.

(Richard Donnelly, [Vermont Energy Investment Corporation](#))

(Shoshana Blank, [Sustainable Endowments Institute](#))

Discussion Questions:

1. Once a project obtains access to funding, what other barriers remain before capital can be deployed at scale?
2. How can the Vermont experience be used to encourage other states/municipalities to consider revolving loan fund tools to recapture energy savings for further investment?
3. Is there a potential for municipal associations to aggregate their funding sources and obtain a reduced price point for revolving loan fund tools?



2:00-2:45

High Efficiency Street Light Conversion Strategies

- Street lighting is responsible for more than 20% of many municipal electric bills. However, recent drastic reductions in cost and increases in quality of LED street lights represents an opportunity cut street light expenses in half, reduce carbon emissions, and provide higher quality municipal street lighting. Learn about regional strategies that are ushering the transition to high efficiency street lights.

(Brian D. Buckley, [Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships](#))

(Patrick Roche, [Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#))

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we encourage utilities to adopt LED rates for street lights that are leased to municipalities?
2. Can area planning councils and municipal associations act as an organizer and point of contact for aggregated RFQs?
3. Can LED conversion savings in medium-to-large municipalities potentially fund an energy manager position while also reducing operating costs?

2:45-3:00

Short Takes, close-outs, final questions

3:00-3:30

EPA Building Tour

Many Thanks to the US EPA for Hosting!

NOTES: