



Regional Portfolio Advisory Committee

Q3 2024 Meeting Notes

August 22, 2024

12:30pm – 4:15pm PST

Online Only

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members:

Lis Saunders, Tacoma Power

Patrick Weaver, Puget Sound Energy

Kevin Smit, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Spencer Moersfelder, Energy Trust of Oregon

Billie McWinn, Idaho Power

Lori Moen, Seattle City Light

Debbie DePetris, Clark Public Utilities

Whitney Jurenica, NorthWestern Energy

James White, Chelan PUD

NEEA Staff: Alisyn Maggiora, Brandon Lindquist, Mark Rehley, Peter Christeleit, Ryan Brown, Virginia Mersereau, Anouksha Gardner, Britt Cutsforth Dawkins, Emily Moore

Resources

- Agenda Packet: <https://neea.org/committee-documents/q3-2024-rpac-agenda-packet>
- Slide Deck: <https://neea.org/committee-documents/q3-2024-rpac-meeting-slides>
- Recordings:
 - Part 1 <https://vimeo.com/1002914428>
 - Part 2 <https://vimeo.com/1003253554>

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Housekeeping and Looking Ahead

- Heat Pump Water Heater campaign
 - Campaign officially launched: <http://www.hotwatersolutionsnw.org/Level-Up>. Will optimize the campaign only as needed and based on response. Looking at performance on a biweekly basis. Changes will not happen to the messaging. Final performance will be presented at the Q1 2025 RPAC/RPAC+ meeting.
- Staffing Update
 - Peter Christeleit has a new role as Senior Manager, Corporate Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, having previously been the Gas Portfolio Manager.
- Workgroups
 - Federal Funding Workgroup
 - Assessing at this point what's still helpful for NEEA to do here, particularly from a convening standpoint. NEEA has received feedback that there are enough forums for this now and all the interconnections have been made.
 - Dual Fuel Workgroup

- The NGAC group met April 15th to discuss different field demonstrations NGAC members are conducting, or planning, additional work such as market research, modeling, white papers, and next steps. The group is planning to meet again September 19th and some early results are expected from one of the pilots. Will provide another update in Q4.
- Looking Ahead – RPAC
 - Q4 Charter
 - 2025 Proposed RPAC meeting dates - Feedback on these dates is due by September 26.
 - Q1 – Tuesday, Feb 11
 - Q2 – Monday, May 19 (EFX25) - ***Note: may need to shift to Thurs May 22***
 - Q3 – Tuesday, Aug 19
 - Q4 – Monday, Nov 3
- Announcements and Reminders
 - Upcoming meetings and events
 - November 5 RPAC meeting is a hybrid meeting at SeaTac – please plan to join in person if you’re able.
 - 2025 Ops Plan Webinar
 - Full draft plan will be sent to the Board, RPAC, and NGAC on October 10. Feedback period will be October 10 through October 28. The plan will be reviewed/approved by the Board on December 5.
 - Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards
 - Nominations are open through September 13. The event will be Thursday, December 5. Nomination categories are the Rising Star award, the Innovative Collaboration award, and the Lifetime Achievement award. There is a fourth award that will be selected by NEEA’s Board Chair and Executive Director called the Chairperson’s award.
 - NEEA Annual Report
 - 2023 annual report is now available on neea.org. You can find it at <https://neea.org/annual-report/2023>.

Coordinating Committee Assessment

Alisyn Maggiora (amaggiora@neea.org), Sr. Stakeholder Relations Manager, briefed RPAC on the latest Coordination Committee assessment. The Coordinating Committees were restructured four years ago and it was agreed to assess the new structure along the way. In that spirit, NEEA staff received feedback on the Coordinating Committees through the Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey earlier this year. NEEA staff also gathered input from Coordinating Committee members and NEEA program managers. Feedback yielded a few opportunities for improvement: sector organized (residential programs in one forum, commercial/industrial in the other) and renamed accordingly, less meetings and more streamlined materials, and increase flexibility on topics and facilitation.

Discussion

Debbie DePetrus, Clark Public Utilities : Can you give me an example of what you mean by flexibility? An example of an ad hoc topic?

Anouksha Gardner, NEEA: We haven’t had any yet, one coming up. Ad hoc topics are topics that are relevant to the region that committee members bring to the table in real-time and want to see what others around the region are doing. The first one will be in Q4 on managing fluorescent baselines at the Integrated Systems Coordinating Committee.

Spencer Moersfelder, Energy Trust: Are you reviewing this with the Coordinating Committees as well?

Alisyn Maggiora, NEEA: Yes.

Instituting a Third ILC Milestone Vote at Long-Term Monitoring & Tracking

Alisyn Maggiora (amaggiora@neea.org), Sr. Stakeholder Relations Manager, informed the Committee on a proposal to add a new Initiative Lifecycle milestone to NEEA's existing stage gate advancement process for programs. This would be the third and final milestone at the juncture between "Market Development" and "Long-Term Monitoring & Tracking" (LTMT) phases. It would require unanimous consent by those casting votes, just like the other two milestones. This is designed to codify existing processes at the LTMT transition phase and not add further time investment from both NEEA and committee members. The purpose for adding the milestone is to formalize RPAC's voice for long-term monitoring and tracking, support equitable delivery of market transformation efforts, and increase transparency for one-off requests to stay in local markets. The Board will review and decide on RPAC charter changes in Q1 2025.

Manufactured Homes Program Transition to Long-Term Monitoring & Tracking

Mark Rehley (mrehley@neea.org), Director of Codes, Standards, and Emerging Technology, spoke about the Manufactured Homes program moving to Long-Term Monitoring and Tracking. The program will continue to track adoption; track Federal codes, standards, and specifications; work with ENERGY STAR; test heat pumps; and maintain relationships with NEEM and manufacturers. Mark presented on the history of the Manufactured Homes program in relation to annual sales from 1980 to 2020. The program has supported the NEEM+ specification since 2014. NEEM+ market share is low but stable. As the program moves into this new phase, there are three recommendations for NEEA, as articulated in the Transition Market Progress Evaluation Report (T-MPER) found here: [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Manufactured Homes...](#)

1. NEEA should continue to monitor the manufactured home market as the new ENERGY STAR specification takes effect in 2026 and the new federal standard takes effect in 2025.
2. NEEA and Northwest Energy Works should continue to work with EPA to support an update to the ENERGY STAR V3 specification that allows NEEM+ homes to qualify without installation of a heat pump.
3. NEEA and partner organizations like the Regional Technical Forum should conduct an analysis to assess the relative energy savings between ENERGY STAR V3 and ZERH manufactured homes and NEEM+ homes and assess typical installation practices to ensure specifications effectively drive manufactured home efficiency in the Northwest.

A memo on the future of the program went out in the third quarter of 2024.

Discussion

Spencer, Energy Trust: Is there any possibility of a NEEM double plus standard?

Mark Rehley, NEEA: Yes. NEEA will continue to work with ENERGY STAR and the Department of Energy on their specifications into what could be described as a NEEM double plus standard.

Philip Kelsven, Bonneville Power Administration: Will the NEEM certification in this program continue to happen?

Mark Rehley, NEEA: Yes.

RPAC Round Robin

RPAC members shared the latest news and key programmatic updates for their respective organizations; focus topics include big changes (programs/personnel); big changes in programs/personnel, current challenges/lessons learned, and more.

- **Philip Kelsven, Bonneville Power Administration:** Halfway through two-year rate period. Focused on maintaining current portfolio and making sure we meet our target. Just released an updated Action Plan. Targets are going down slightly but within forecast. Trying to make sure customer utilities are on track to meet their targets and spend their budgets. In the fall, hosting roundtable meetings: one for Oregon and Washington, and another for Idaho and Montana. No agendas yet for those.
- **Billie McWinn, Idaho Power:** Launching a new Oregon-specific Energy Advisory Group, coined OEAG. Will be meeting with them twice a year. First one is in November. Residential New Construction program is struggling for cost-effectiveness due to a shortage of raters in our area. Looking at how to build that network up. Reevaluating demand response and looking at bringing in a Bring Your Own Thermostat program.
- **Whitney Jurenec, NorthWestern Energy:** Looking at results from most recent studies and figuring out what the data is saying about our service territory. Looking at what the value is for what we do and how to communicate it out, as well as how to market to the right group. Continue to be understaffed. Savings came in similar to years past and so did spending. Looking at documenting decision-making activities for succession planning or just communicating internally and externally.
- **Lis Saunders, Tacoma Power:** Brittany Broyles selected as manager of Customer Energy Solutions (CES). She is now responsible for conservation, mobility, demand response, and solar programs. This is Steve Bicker's backfill due to his retirement. Anne Larrabee will be Brittany Broyles backfill as the operations manager. Finalizing contract for next rounds of Conservation Potential Assessment; Tacoma Power selected Applied Energy Group (AEG) to provide CPA, which is the same provider under the previous CPA contract. CES has partnered with City of Tacoma on a State-funded home electrification and appliance rebate grant. The focus is on fuel switching per guidance of the City of Tacoma. CES exploring rebates for multifamily ductless heat pumps given the recent update to the BPA list. CES also developing an updated mobile strategy and exploring potential demand response pilots with leading options including residential thermostats, industrial demand response, managed EV fleet charging, and peak time rebate. Concluding participation with the Washington Clean Buildings Performance Standard Financial Workgroup. On track to make savings target.
- **Debbie DePetrus, Clark Public Utilities:** For the HEAR grant, received about \$500,000. The majority of that will be spent on residential with ten percent going to small commercial. Will also be offering rebates. Going to be passing through the BPA low-income rebates that are significantly higher. City of Vancouver also applied for funds and received about a million dollars. Might potentially have the opportunity to stack rebates with them. Have been able to meet savings targets. Have identified a couple of new programs that we're going to launch. One is midstream lighting for businesses, another is retrocommissioning. Looking at programs that may not necessarily bring immediate savings but will pay off in future years.
- **Patrick Weaver, Puget Sound Energy:** On track to exceed electrical and natural gas targets for 2024. Refreshing 2025 plans as part of an annual review. Not anticipating significant changes but taking a look at how we do heat pumps. Working through rulemaking on Washington House Bill 1589. Will find out after the election what will be effected. For Clean Buildings Standards, Tier 1 engagements are doing well, exploring what new services might look like for Tier 2 buildings that will have to start complying next year. Seeing what services look like on the demand response side. Now have 65,000 resources in our virtual power plant with a lot of those being residential customers. Have about 300 demand response customers signed up and have had good curtailments. Exploring direct code deployment. Have an electrification pilot underway. Ended \$5,000 electrification rebates at the end of July due to special funding running out.

- **Lori Moen, Seattle City Light:** On load flex, we've selected a vendor for a time of use deployment system. Should have a program launching in 2025. About to be fully staffed for the first time since 2019. Coming down to the wire on savings, should just squeeze in. Working on a new marketing plan, especially focused on how to target specific segments. Moving forward with early design assistance, just selected a vendor. From the HEAR grant, we should be getting about \$600,000 which will go directly to midstream program for small businesses.
- **James White, Chelan PUD:** The University of Washington came in and did an energy assessment for local businesses. They had a suggestion of an ultrasonic air leak detection camera. We are planning on buying one for ourselves and then periodically go through our customers. Industrial facilities looking for air leaks and helping them identify them and then coming back after they fix to confirm it. The savings are essentially printed on the screen. Still doing the Energy Champions high school students program. They get paid \$20 an hour to work part time during the school year to get load profile data and measure and verify savings. This can help our customers hit targets they've not quite met yet through operation and maintenance improvements.
- **Kevin Smit, Northwest Power and Conservation Council:** Just completed adequacy assessment and midterm assessment of the 2021 Power Plan. Had a target range of 752,000 average megawatts. This check showed that we'll need to do more. There's load growth happening and more efficiency will be needed. The Regional Technical Forum is in the process or has finished collecting the data for the Regional Conservation Progress report. The retail targets and regional goals seem to be on track. For the next six to eight months we will be going full bore on getting our conservation supply curves and looking for new resources.
- **Spencer Moersfelder, Energy Trust of Oregon:** Working on the 2025 budget. Thinking about what we can do to continue to keep pace to meet carbon reduction targets in Oregon. Have accelerated program offerings and there has been an enthusiastic response from commercial and industrial customers. We also have enthusiasm from contractors and customers interested in our commercial and industrial lighting programs before House Bill 2531. Embarking on a multiyear planning process in 2025 with a five-year horizon and trying to put a price tag on the savings we might enjoy in that five-year period. Working with the Oregon Department of Energy to administer HEAR funds. That money may not hit the street until close to the end of 2025 with an emphasis on 2026 and beyond.

Peak Value for Portfolio Management in Cycle 7 (2025-29)

Ryan Brown (rbrown@neea.org), Manager, Planning and Analysis, presented on peak value for NEEA's Cycle 7. As new concepts and programs are brought for advancement decisions, NEEA will include this program-level peak value. A NEEA 2025-2029 Business Plan focus area is "Prioritizing energy savings at peak demand to ensure NEEA's energy efficient Market Transformation activities are delivering the highest value to the region." There are a multitude of avenues for NEEA to explore for new efficiency and one of the criteria for selection will now be opportunities to benefit peak time demands. Ryan is working with the Cost Effectiveness Advisory Committee on particulars of metric and calculation.

Discussion

Spencer Moersfelder, Energy Trust: Are capacity-constrained times factored into peak load calculations?

Ryan Brown, NEEA: We will think about this further.

Meeting Wrap Up

- NEEA to follow up with Energy Trust about NEEA's program approach and check-in on manufactured homes before it transitions to LTMT
 - Ryan to answer Spencer's question if capacity constrained times are factored into peak load calculations? Savings at peak vs savings at capacity constrained times
 - Ryan to get those loading shapes for Kevin Smit on MHs and DHPs, Pumps
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- Public comment - None
 - Meeting feedback - None
 - Next meeting
 - Q4 Meeting November 5 (hybrid at SeaTac – in-person encouraged)