



Regional Portfolio Advisory Committee

Q4 2023 Meeting Notes

November 2, 2023

9:30am – 11:00am PST

Online

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members:

Jim White, Chelan PUD

Debbie DePetris, Clark PUD

Fred Gordon, Energy Trust of Oregon

Bryan Russo,

Kevin Smit, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jeff Tripp, Puget Sound Energy

Alexa Bouvier, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Laura James, PacifiCorp

Lori Moen, Seattle City Light

Kathy Yi, Idaho Power Company

NEEA Staff: Alisyn Maggiora, Becky Walker, Britt Cutsforth Dawkins, Brandon Lindquist, Emily Moore, Eric Olson, Mark Rehley, Stephanie Rider, Stephanie Quinn

Resources

- Agenda Packet: [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Q4 2023 RPAC Agenda...](#)
- Slide Deck: [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Q4 2023 RPAC Meeting...](#)
- Recording: <https://vimeo.com/880694223>

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Housekeeping and Looking Ahead

- Proposed Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) Consumer Consideration Campaign
 - The 2023 HPWH program is focused on distributors and installers. Next year the team will continue that focus while also supporting consumer demand. Awareness of HPWHs continues to grow across the Northwest and NEEA recommends a 2024 campaign to shift consumers from awareness to consideration. This is in line with the overall program strategy to ensure barriers upstream, midstream, and downstream are addressed and mainstream market adoption is achieved. In mid-February, Britt Cutsforth Dawkins will propose the campaign creative in anticipation of a mid-June campaign launch.
- Coordinating Committees Update
 - To better align with committee members sector-based composition, NEEA is swapping two programs each between Products and Integrated Systems. Advanced Heat Pumps and High-Performance Windows are moving to the Products Coordinating Committee from Integrated Systems. XMP Pumps and Efficient Fans will be moving to the Integrated Systems Coordinating Committee from Products.

- The Coordinating Committees topic planning process will be November 7 for Integrated Systems and November 16 for Products. The Regional Online Marketplace will be a 2024 topic.
- Federal Funding Coordination Work Group
 - Met twice in Q3. The main topic of the first meeting was workforce and the availability of a qualified workforce for incentivized measures. The main topic of the second meeting was on home rebates. A Q4 meeting is being determined.
- Leadership in Energy Efficiency awards will be on December 4. It will be a hybrid ceremony. To RSVP go to neea.org/leadershipawards. In-person attendance must RSVP by November 17.
- Efficiency Exchange Conference 2024 will be in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. For more information go to neea.org/EFX. Over 100 session topics were proposed; the conference planning committee are going through those currently. Agenda should come out mid-January.
- Upcoming meetings
 - Q1 2024 RPAC meeting February 12
 - Q2 May 13 or 16 (Efficiency Exchange is May 14-15 in Idaho). Let Alisyn Maggiora know if you cannot do Monday May 13.
 - Q3 August 22
 - Q4 November 5

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.

- **Bryan Russo, Tacoma Power:** Leah Marquez-Glynn was promoted to assistant section manager leading long term energy planning efforts. Completed Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) and our board approved our target of approximately 56,000 MWh. The targets are slightly higher than an earlier forecast. There is a Demand Response potential assessment also in the works, and electrification study to inform future IRPs and CPAs. The Washington State Department of Commerce has kicked off a work group for fiscal analysis for building owners to comply with the clean building performance standard. The Department of Commerce has also begun listening sessions for the Inflation Reduction Act home rebates program development, including one that is utility-specific. In the process of restructuring the low-income offering.
- **Fred Gordon, Energy Trust:** Finishing up a challenging budget process at Energy Trust. The main hurdle is proposing more infrastructure to build relationships with Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and expand workforce development to facilitate future savings. The intent is to accelerate efficiency especially for historically underserved customer groups. Having trouble meeting gas goals (currently at about 90 percent of the goal) because some customers are switching fuels or thinking about it and holding back. It's hard to get snapshot of this activity, but OPUC wants Energy Trust to make sure efficiency is in the decision-making matrix for customers regardless of what fuel they choose. In the process of selecting Fred's replacement as he moves towards special projects and then retirement.
- **Lori Moen, Seattle City Light:** General Manager recruitment is underway, old General Manager has retired and currently have an interim General Manager, Mike Haynes. Two officers are departing, one very soon. One, Craig Smith will be retiring next year and will be recognized at the NEEA Leadership Awards in December. The other is Emeka Anyanwu who stood up the electrification program. Whittling away at vacancies, down to under ten. Jen Finnegan has three positions open in the planning department and they are also hiring a temporary program manager. Demand side management

potential assessment has final numbers. Had regional BPA meeting in person at Snohomish PUD. Key takeaway is that energy efficiency is not just cost-effective but necessary for transmission limitations. Value of energy efficiency work will change. Will have demand response target for the first time. There is a demand response pilot for residential and they will stand up a flexible loads portfolio with time-of-use rates, demand response, and some items yet to be determined. This is for residential and commercial.

- **Debbie DePetris, Clark Public Utilities:** Looking to participate in the Heat Pump Water Heater BPA campaign. Working on Conservation Planning Activities and demand response potential assessment. Target is slightly lower than what it was in the last biennium. One large industrial customer is interested in participating in a demand response program as they have already participated in one in a different service territory. Due to the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) in Washington and because BPA has done good work on low-income programs, looking to get creative on how to expand low-income opportunities. Looking to partner with community action agencies to potentially piggyback on their income qualification process to do more with limited and low-income customers.
- **Kathy Yi, Idaho Power:** Idaho Power just filed 2023 Integrated Resource Plan at the end of September. Will be releasing RFP for next potential study that will feed into the 2025 IRP. Have been involved in moving internal demand-side management database to a cloud-based system. Just launched a new multifamily program to replace an older multifamily direct install program. The new program is a prescriptive-based incentive program for new construction and retrofit multifamily. Will need to make changes to hone in on eligibility requirements but getting it launched now. Measures include ductless heat pumps, air-source heat pumps, windows, some shell and HVAC for common areas, and reflective roofing.
- **James White, Chelan PUD:** Focused on cold-climate heat pumps that are going in. Interested to see how many currently installed heat pumps are currently used as auxiliary heating. Have 10 cold-climate heat pumps going in, using Emerson monitoring system (Sensei Predict) to monitor performance. Collecting data this winter.
- **Kevin Smit, NWPCC:** RTF is in the process of updating all the heat pump measures. There will be some rescoping and input over the next six months to see what new opportunities there are for heat pump measures. Presented at a Council meeting last month the results of the regional progress report. Goals are on target based on one year of data. There is an RFP out for a contract analysis for the RTF. The Council is working on the midterm assessment of the 2021 power plan. A couple areas of concern are the loads, especially the data center loads, transmission and distribution constraints, and the values of efficiency in avoiding transmission and distribution upgrades. There is ongoing work at RTF for valuing energy efficiency for resiliency and flexibility.
- **Jeff Feinberg, Snohomish PUD:** Finalizing 2023 IRA and CPA updates. Did see substantial change in conservation potential in the residential space, this has a lot to do with electrification and is changing how we think about cost bundles. Launching a residential new construction program. The idea is to incentivize above code energy efficiency. Doing work this year at increasing autoenrollment and streamlined enrollment at a rate discount. This will help target customers for other energy efficiency programs like free and reduced lunch, tribes assistance program, and low-income housing providers. Want to make it easier for customer not to have to apply and help identify and build micro-programs or tiered incentives.

Doing okay this year on savings goal. Hear peers struggling so know it's only a matter of time. Trying to continue investment to serve customers and keep seeing results. Having budget challenges and being asked to do more with less.

- **Jeffrey Tripp, Puget Sound Energy:** Adding commercial weatherization window replacement and secondary window rebates to try to address the shell on the commercial side. Beginning next year moving heat pump water heater rebates to all downstream away from midstream. Boilers are shifting from downstream to midstream. Increasing single-family weatherization incentives significantly. Eliminating what is left of retail lighting rebates. Starting electrification pilot mandated through rate case. Launched demand response programs. Behavioral demand response was launched on August 1 and is going well. Close to 10,000 customers for behavioral demand response have enrolled and are adding more.
- **Alexa Bouvier, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources:** Working on Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs (including resiliency program); as well as energy efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program for cities and counties for energy efficiency retrofits. A lot of program planning.
- **Bonneville Power Administration (written update submitted for the record):** BPA is once again offering Sales Performance Incentive Fund (SPIFs) to installers of qualified Heat Pump Water Heaters as part of the Greener Water Heater program delivered by Comfort Ready Homes. The SPIF is \$500 and runs from November 1 through September 30, 2024. BPA ended its Heat Pump Quality install program Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS) program on September 30, 2023 and is looking forward to NEEA's Advanced Heat Pump Initiative to fill some of the void that PTCS left behind. BPA is conducting detailed metering of High Capacity (Cold Climate) heat pumps in up to 50 homes throughout the region. Metering installs will be complete by the end of 2023 and in place for at least one year.

Meeting Wrap Up

- Action Item Summary - None
- Public comment - None
- Meeting feedback - None
- Next meetings
 - Q1 Meeting (virtual): (TBD) Monday, February 12