



Q2 2026 RETAC Meeting Notes

June 17, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Microsoft Teams Webinar

Meeting Attendees

Ben Latson, Energy Trust Oregon
Spencer Sator, Consortium for Energy Efficiency
Keshmira Engineer, Bonneville Power
Administration
Jim White, Chelan PUD
Robert Bogataj, City of Seattle
Eric Heim, Energy 350
Kenji Spielman, Energy Trust Oregon
Ammi Amarnath, Electric Power Research
Institute
Jon Heller, Ecotope

Todd Greenwell, Idaho Power
Ron Domitrovic, Electric Power Research Institute
Shelly Carlton, Energy Trust Oregon
Amit Singh, Puget Sound Energy
Matt Iris, Avista
Edward Louie, Pacific Northwest National
Laboratory
Lauren Kerr, Portland General Electric
Andrew Pultorak, Puget Sound Energy
Christopher Boroughs, Puget Sound Energy

NEEA Staff: Wendy Preiser, Alisyn Maggiora, Adam Gage, Mark Rehley, Mike Smith, Chuck Karras, Lynne Mosley, Becky Walker, Eric Olson, John Wilson, Kristen Aramthanapon

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Announcements	Mark Rehley	NEEA
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)	Ron Domitrovic Ammi Amarnath	EPRI
Round Robin	All	
Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE)	Spencer Sator	CEE

Resources

- Agenda and Packet Materials: [Q2 2026 RETAC Agenda Packet - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
- Slide Deck: [Q2 2026 RETAC Meeting Slides - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
- Q2 2026 Emerging Technology Newsletter: [Q2 2026 Emerging Technology Newsletter - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)

Meeting Notes

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

EPRI Heat Pump Research and Grid Impacts: Ron Domitrovic from EPRI, with support from Ammi Amarnath, delivered an in-depth presentation on EPRI's research into heat pump technologies, covering residential, commercial, and industrial applications, and discussed the implications for grid management, efficiency, and demand response.

- **EPRI Heat Pump Research Overview:** Ron outlined EPRI's long-term research on heat pumps, highlighting the evolution from single-speed to inverter-driven systems, and described the broad scope of EPRI's work, which includes motors, drives, water heating, air conditioning, and lighting, with a focus on customer-side technologies for efficiency, demand reduction, and decarbonization.
- **Inverter-Driven Heat Pump Technology:** Ron explained the technical advantages of inverter-driven heat pumps, emphasizing their flexibility, efficiency, and the challenges in characterizing their performance due to variable operation; he noted that EPRI's work includes educating utilities on optimal application and the development of new testing approaches.
- **Grid Impacts and Demand Response:** Ron presented data on how widespread adoption of single-speed heat pumps with electric resistance backup can create significant grid peaks during cold weather, using examples from the Southeast and the Pacific Northwest, and demonstrated that inverter-driven systems can reduce peak demand and improve demand response capabilities, as shown in field trials with utilities like TVA and Duke Energy.
- **Commercial and Industrial Heat Pump Applications:** The discussion covered the application of heat pumps in commercial hydronic systems and industrial processes, including the development of high-lift systems and the construction of an industrial heat pump test facility in partnership with Southern Company, with an invitation for utilities to participate or visit.
- **Policy and Market Developments:** Mark Rehley and Ammi Amarnath discussed EPRI's role in providing technical information to policymakers, the importance of industry associations for policy tracking, and recent policy changes affecting ground source heat pump markets, with EPRI collaborating with organizations like Geo Exchange.

Round Robin

Regional Utility and Program Updates: Mark facilitated a round robin where participants including Amitpal Singh, Christopher Boroughs, Lauren Kerr, Kenji Spielman, James White, Todd Greenwell, Robert Bogataj, Ben Latson, and Ammi Amarnath shared updates on ongoing research, pilot programs, and emerging technology initiatives relevant to the Northwest energy sector.

- **Portable and Room Heat Pump Research:** Amitpal Singh and Christopher Boroughs described Puget Sound Energy's early-stage investigation into portable room heat pumps for renters, focusing on cost-effective, plug-in solutions and the use of smart plugs for savings estimates, while Mark Rehley referenced related research at NEEA and the importance of understanding user behavior in winter use.
- **Measured Savings and System Optimization Pilots:** Christopher Boroughs detailed a pilot program (MSRP Major Savings Rebate Program) that works with contractors to implement and measure the impact of additional system improvements for heat pumps, allowing contractors to select measures with the highest expected savings and tracking results over a 12-month period.
- **Data Center and Electrification Demonstrations:** Lauren Kerr from PGE reported on regulatory and demonstration activities, including new data center rate classes, demand response demonstrations with Emerald AI and NVIDIA, smarter grid planning for transportation electrification, and the development of resilient charging hubs, as well as ongoing work on water heating RFIs.

- **Lighting Legislation and Market Research:** Kenji Spielman discussed Energy Trust's research into the effects of lighting legislation on small businesses, compliance rates, and the shift away from fluorescent lighting, with Mark Rehley offering to share NEEA's market research data and suggesting further coordination.
- **Cold Climate Heat Pump Installations and Research:** James White and Todd Greenwell shared experiences with cold climate heat pump installations, the importance of minimizing electric resistance backup, and ongoing research and bill analysis, with a focus on contractor practices, system commissioning, and the need for regionally appropriate specifications.
- **Program and Specification Development Challenges:** Todd Greenwell highlighted the rapid adoption of variable speed, centrally ducted heat pumps, the challenges in developing effective program measures, the need for advanced specifications, and the importance of installer training and commissioning, as well as updates on Idaho's energy codes and infrastructure projects.
- **Control Systems and Efficiency Ratings:** Ben Latson emphasized the impact of control systems on heat pump efficiency, the limitations of current rating methods, and the anticipated benefits of the upcoming Control Verification Protocol (CVP) for more accurate efficiency assessments, especially for variable speed units.
- **Industrial Load Flexibility and Demand Response Pilots:** Ammi Amarnath described EPRI's projects on industrial load flexibility, including using refrigerated warehouses as thermal batteries in dynamic pricing pilots, and a behind-the-meter optimization project with Octopus Energy, offering to connect interested parties for further discussion.

Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE)

CEE and Emerging Technology Collaborative Overview: Spencer Sator from the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) provided an overview of CEE's mission, membership, specification development process, and the Emerging Technology Collaborative (ETC), highlighting resources available to the region through NEEA's membership and recent research on alternative form factor heat pumps and other emerging technologies.

- **CEE Structure and Membership:** Spencer explained that CEE is a nonprofit consortium of program administrators and utilities, with NEEA representing the Northwest region, and described the committee-driven process for developing efficiency specifications, qualified product lists, and collaborative research.
- **Emerging Technology Collaborative Activities:** The ETC, managed by Spencer, brings together leading utilities and organizations to share pilot results, coordinate research, and accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies, with NEEA actively participating and updating a catalog of over 2,000 industry pilots.
- **Recent and Upcoming Research Reports:** Spencer highlighted the ETC's research agenda, including reports on alternative form-factor heat pumps (such as room and window units), and described the value of these reports and the pilot catalog for informing program development and avoiding duplicative efforts.
- **Alternative Form Factor Heat Pumps:** The presentation covered the rapid market growth of 120V room heat pumps, their suitability for low- and moderate-income households, multifamily buildings, and emergency cooling, and the challenges related to self-installation, efficiency, and cost, with reference to NEEA's research and upcoming field tests.
- **Innovative Retrofit and Water Heating Technologies:** Spencer shared examples of innovative technologies discussed at the recent ETC meeting, including Fraunhofer USA's prefabricated exterior insulation panels for deep energy retrofits and the development of dual-fuel heat pump water heaters, with NEEA conducting field tests on the latter.

Follow-Up Tasks:

- **Q3 RETAC Meeting Date Coordination:** Collect feedback from committee members on conflicts or preferences for the proposed new Q3 RETAC meeting dates (September 23rd or September 30th) and finalize the rescheduled date. (Lynne, Mike, Mark) **UPDATE:** Meeting set for September 30th.
- **Lighting Market Data Sharing:** Send recent market research data on linear lighting sales shifts in Oregon to Kenji and Energy Trust team for coordination and measure development. (Mark)
- **Energy Trust Research Project List Sharing:** Share the list of upcoming and potential research projects under consideration at Energy Trust with the committee to identify opportunities for collaboration and avoid duplication. (Kenji)
- **Room Heat Pump Research Collaboration:** Connect Puget Sound Energy team (Amitpal, Christopher Boroughs) with Christopher Dymond and relevant NEEA researchers to compare notes and coordinate on room heat pump research, especially for products under \$1,000 and renter market usage. (Mark)
- **Room Heat Pump Product Council Follow-Up:** Provide details and access to the upcoming room heat pump product council led by Christopher Dymond to interested committee members, including Christopher Boroughs. (Mike)
- **Fraunhofer Panel Retrofit Technology Information:** Share Fraunhofer's panel retrofit technology video and additional materials with interested committee members for further exploration of deep energy retrofit approaches. (Spencer)
- **Octopus Energy Demand Response Pilot Presentation:** Arrange a product council session with Octopus Energy or Southern Cal Edison to present their behind-the-meter optimization and demand response pilot to the committee. (Ammi, Mark)