

Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
Public Hearing
January 10, 2012

Hello, my name is Richard Rogers, and I am the principle officer of the Greater Boston Labor Council. The Greater Boston Labor Council consists of 154 unions representing over 90,000 members in Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Needham, Newton, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston, Winchester, Winthrop, and Woburn. I am the board chair of Community Labor United (CLU) and we are a part of the Green Justice Coalition which CLU convenes.

The Green Justice Coalition supports a statewide publicly accessible data system that would provide timely and useful data for the purpose of analyzing and amending energy efficiency policy. Without a statewide publicly accessible data system, public officials and ratepayer advocates face significant barriers to serving the public and ensuring that all communities have access to energy efficiency funds. The GJC supports DOER's proposal to modify the PARIS database so that PAs can enter detailed information about customer participation. Therefore, we urge the Program Administrators to include the creating a publicly accessible data system in the next three year plans. Below are recommendations for how the data can be reported to meet the goal of better understanding customer participation.

1. First, we heard that utility companies as well as other interested parties are concerned about sharing data because of privacy concerns.
 - We, as well as the utility companies want to maintain customer privacy. To eliminate privacy concerns, GJC requests that data about customer participation is made available to the public in aggregate form. GJC suggests amending the PARIS database so that users can run queries that generate reports about customer participation that can be shared with the public. Though the GJC would like census block data, Cape Light Compact provides an example of aggregate data reporting by geographical location that does not pose privacy concerns; see: <http://documents.capelightcompact.org/mashpee/2010/2010-12%20Mashpee.pdf>
2. Second, we heard that utility companies are concerned about having to complete additional reporting requirements.
 - We recognize the efforts of the utility companies to respond to reporting requests from the EEAC, DPU, and others. We also understand that the various reporting formats (e.g. PARIS data entry, DPU 08-50 Tables, etc.) require laborious formatting of data. GJC supports amending the PARIS database so that it can populate the 08-50 Tables. Further, the additional information the GJC requests, as described below, can be supplied in reports generated in the PARIS database. GJC sees no need to create a new database or begin a new reporting format. By amending PARIS, GJC thinks less time will be spent generating reports and complying with reporting requests.

3. Third, we heard that utility companies do not collect address data for all programs, which makes it impossible for the utility companies to report data for residential customers by census block group.
 - We understand that the utility companies do not collect address information for all residential customers. Our understanding is that the utility companies do not collect addresses for the lighting program. GJC recommends that the utility companies report data for residential customers served by census block group for the programs for which the utilities collect address data, including Residential Cooling & Heating Equipment; Multifamily Retrofit; and MassSAVE.
4. Fourth, we heard that the utility companies are concerned about providing data about customer participation even in aggregate form by census block because a knowledgeable person might be able to discern commercial and industrial customer information in areas with few customers.
 - This concern can be addressed by reporting residential customer participation by census block group and reporting commercial & industrial customer participation by municipality.

Our coalition has not heard any concerns that cannot be addressed. Consequently, we recommend the following data reporting requirements.

- The data should be input into the PARIS database, which should allow utility companies and DOER to generate reports about detailed customer participation that are available to the public in a timely manner.
- Data about customer participation in energy efficiency programs should be reported separately for residential and C&I programs.
- Data about customer participation for residential programs should be reported as follows:
 - By program: Residential Cooling & Heating Equipment; Multifamily Retrofit; MassSAVE; Appliance Incentives; and HEAT Loan
 - By number of participants
 - By costs per program to both participants and program
 - By savings (kW / therms) per program
 - By housing type: Single Family; 1-4 Family; Multifamily
 - By census block group
 - By renter status, when renter status information is collected for program
- Data about customer participation for commercial & industrial programs should be reported as follows:
 - By program: New Construction; Large Retrofit; Small Retrofit
 - By number of participants
 - By costs per program to both participants and program
 - By savings (kW / therms) per program
 - By municipality

Thank you very much for this public forum and for the chance to testify.

Richard Rogers

Executive Secretary Treasurer

Greater Boston Labor Council