

Jan 7, 2022 | 📅 Residential Energy Efficiency Roundtable

Attendees: Garrett C Weaver Karen R Lasure Kelly A Bragg Tiffany J Bailey

Notes

- Kimberly Bradley- WV Training Conference Center (15 minutes from Southridge)
 - 140,000 sq ft., 12 areas for training, 4 are large conference centers, Electrical labs, Underground mine lab, commercial kitchen plans, (Needs Lodging, \$\$)
 - Bigger training programs wanted
 - Mark Adams- WV DED Weatherization Manager, Weatherization program (residential), looking for multifamily in 2022 plan
 - David Rogers- Senior Mgr Governors Guaranteed Program, deferring cost of training new employees, apprenticeship program with Dave Lavender
 - Needs help promoting awareness
 - Has the funding, Solar Holler and Clearview to enact green jobs
 - Brandon Dennison CEO Coalfield Development, retraining in the Appalachian Area, BBB Regional Challenge ACT Now coalition of 8 projects to development climate resilience sector (Solar, Green Power, Reclaimed Mine Land Reforestation, Workforce Development, Weatherization)
 - Deb Harris- Lead Transition Leader for Justices Re-Job Program - Training and education program, Drug recovery, incarceration, eliminate barriers, person centered
 - Jason T.- Certified Building Analyst in Eastern Panhandle
 - Kym Chaffin- Real Estate Agent, Kanawha Valley, Green Designation Course for WV teacher and trainer
 - Sara Payne- MU VP of External Engagement, Building Partnerships, Operations Council for Development of Southern WV- 11 Colleges and Universities in Southern WV
 - Tammy Stafford- EE Manager with AEP
 - Tiffany Williams- Director of Workforce and Economic Development for WV SU
 - Larry Zarker-
 - Nate Adams- HVAC 2.0- building science based and highly focused on EE, wrote a building science books
1. Xavier Walter Presentation- Advancing Our Workforce
 - a. 2.1 Million EE Jobs
 - b. Wages trend higher with regional differences
 - c. 28% energy savings through cost effective EE initiatives
 - d. Most houses were not built around standard energy codes
 - e. Awareness of the industry, ability to find, hire, and retain, Challenges with access to and training delivery, need for augmentation of training content
 - f. Key actions to take- Strengthen industries voice, connect talent pipeline to jobs, bolster employee retention and knowledge
 - g. Very large labor shortage in the home performance sector
 - h. Greatest benefit of energy savings is it benefits to the workers and the consumers

- i. Cart before the horse scenario
 - j. #1 job title required is energy auditor, they are the first on the scene and provide the necessary education
 - k. The way to bring this all together is weatherization and it removes the barriers while deferring the costs, financing is coming through BBB, infrastructure, and Cares Act
 - l. All these initiatives must take place through boots on the ground
 - m. Identify the workers and customize the training based on the needs
2. Karen Lasure Presentation- WVOE
- a. Energy Efficiency Workforce Training and Education
 - i. Future collaboration with Southern Alliance (11 CTCs), BPA, Mobile Training Ctr, and funding provided through Infrastructure Law in different funding sources (Energy Auditor Training and Energy Codes and Technical Support)
 - ii. Future Commercial HVAC mobile trailer
 - iii. Guidance to come in the future in relation to funds, process, collaborations, etc.
3. Mark Adams- Weatherization Assistance Program
- a. Grants and funding come through DOE, DOE and LIHEAP regulations
 - b. EE for dwellings for low income families
 - c. Reduce monthly costs, health and safety of the household
 - d. 11 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) throughout the state
 - e. DOE Funding- \$3.7 million, DHHR LIHEAP \$4.7 million, 2021 Utilities \$5.4 million then Delivered out to CAAs based on Census numbers
 - f. Infrastructure funding for WAP estimated at \$37.2 million for WV in addition to already \$4 million allocated
 - i. Areas of interest include- Average Job Cost, Davis Bacon, Workforce, and Deferrals
 - ii. Plans due to DOE around July 1, 2022 and Fund Tentatively released September 2022
 - g. Employment Issues- Nationwide Shortage of WAP workers (Technical Programs, Working Conditions, Credentials are difficult and timely, and salaries (better opportunities elsewhere)) and the WV CAAs need WAP employees (Applicants to apply, salaries, and drug testing)
 - i. Field Techs- easier to have people with prior backgrounds in these areas
 - ii. Energy Auditor and QC Inspector- Higher Paid but more complex, timely, 2 year process, credentials needed, requires written and field test
 - h. Working Together
 - i. CAAs and Workforce
 - ii. Training Programs, Centers, High Schools, VoTech- reaching out these areas earlier (Before College)
 - iii. Always wanting to move forward with current funding and additional funding from Infrastructure

- iv. Re-weatherization date has been changed to a rolling 15 year period (This is very helpful compared to previous 30 year waiting period)
- v. 2 out of 10 jobs estimate for how often air conditioning and/or heat pumps are involved in these programs
- vi. I co-wrote a policy proposal to change it so HVAC supply houses only stock heat pumps, no more ACs. For homes that have oil, propane, or resistance heat this can save a substantial amount of money. <https://bit.ly/3Hprogram>
- vii. Removing barriers to weatherization through general construction improves living quality.
- viii. What is the plan when the money runs out?
 - 1. Once the funds and training is allocated, that when they do the work, the industry can afford to keep the people on and even increase individuals in the field
 - 2. Work with subcontractors when the money comes out (Lack of workforce internally)
 - 3. HVAC is currently contracted out
- ix. Is decarbonization becoming a focus of WAP yet?
- x. How can we utilize the free market contractors?
- xi. My other question is how long the \$3.5B goes for? Does it need to be spent within 5 years? Some other length of time?
 - 1. The money is here until spent as far as he is aware
- xii. What EE audit and upgrade incentives are available, or going to be available to middle income home-owners? Also, are there any programs available for renters, or rental property owners?
 - 1. 3 programs- Home performance- available to all customers (Take Charge WV), Weatherization, Appliances, DIY
 - 2. Low Income Weatherization
 - 3. Low income Multifamily- majority of these have been EE heat pumps
 - 4. Launched to beneficial electrification programs- wood, oil to heat pumps (can not be natural gas)
 - 5. Utility dollars have more flexibility
- xiii. How can we pay Coalfield Development to help reduce the deferrals in weatherization using their trained workforce? Or others

- xiv. Can we enrich the Appalachian Power rebate programs with these new federal dollars?
- xv. I wanted to mention that the WV Public Service Commission went above and beyond what was agreed to in the most recent AEP energy efficiency case to add \$450,000/year of low-income weatherization.
- xvi. So there is \$1.35M/year of low-income weatherization for AEP customers.

What resources do we have to offer?

1. Kym Chaffin- Resources available to Real Estate Agents
 - a. Trying to bring in AEP
 - b. Can only teach the class twice a year and must have at least 10 people
 - c. Appraisers can join the class as well only 5 in state have EE home certification
 - d. Wanting to help in any component in relation to EE education and teaching
 - e. Valuing EE in a house is not based on utility savings but on assets to avoid pass/fail situation
2. Jason T.
 - a. Construction Trades background and Realtor background
3. Brandon Dennison
 - a. 33/6/3 model
 - b. 33 hours of work, 6 hours in community college (associates), 3 hours of personal development
 - c. Construction is biggest and oldest enterprise, have also done solar 101 entry then IBEW, Solar Holler and other companies to get more detailed knowledge

Covid has been one of the biggest challenges to overcome in relation to a changing workforce and how these jobs are completed

Remote Energy Assessments- working with NEEP for a remote energy assessment software, equity status concerns, learning curve for technology for homeowner, broadband access concerns

Action items



<https://www.natethehousewhisperer.com/comfort-guides.html>