



FEDERAL LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP MEETING 1/12/22

Agenda

1. Administration activities
2. Legislative updates
3. Other updates

Notes

1. Administration Activities

On December 8, President Biden mandated 100-percent “carbon pollution-free electricity” for federal facilities by 2030 in an executive order aimed at putting all federal operations on track to hitting net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

- Former Uplight VP [Tanuj Deora](#) very recently joined the White House Council on Env. Quality and will be very involved in this effort.
- The EO might seem narrow but the federal government has a huge footprint in the economy (possibly up to 30%) and could be huge.

In early December, DOE moved to tighten lighting efficiency by codifying a 45-lumens-per-watt standard for general service lighting.

On December 20, DOE unwound a Trump administration rule establishing a separate product class for non condensing residential gas furnaces. DOE’s action was applauded by efficiency advocates, who had argued that the rule, adopted in the Trump administration’s closing days, allowed continued sale of less-efficient non condensing furnaces. The rule also applied to commercial water heaters.

On January 10, Greg participated in a monthly call organized by Jennifer Shaffer of Cascade Associates (she organizes the EESG – Energy Efficiency Strategy Group).

[Here](#) is EESG’s summary of various EE-related budget items from various legislative efforts, including IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) and BBB (Build Back Better).

- Things at DOE are slow as they are in the midst of rolling out various IIJA implementation actions)
- Weatherization, state energy office, and EE block grant formulaic programs: they are moving on these areas to push money out by Q2 or very early Q3 at the latest.

- DOE is interested in moving forward on a regional basis which may have implications for our organizations.
- Regarding other specific programs, there isn't a lot of forward motion (including flexible grid program \$3B) and EESG wants to make sure that building-related grid integration efforts are addressed.
- State-based LIHEAP fund allocations were announced by the Biden administration on Friday 1/7.

EESG is asking for each region to offer thoughts on various needs within CA (we will connect with our lobbyists Erin and Tiffany to find out what they are hearing about federal dollars coming to CA).

2. Legislative Update

EESG BBB report: nothing new to report. The general feeling is that there will be something for clean energy (perhaps tax related) and possibly other stuff too.

- The BBB mood in DC is glum ... most of what people are hearing is focused on cutting rather than adding at this point.
- Agenda for EESG in 2022 include appropriations (not necessarily all in the world of continuing resolutions) and the outlook for EE looks quite good.
- They are working on their 2023 asks.
- There is a general concern that there aren't enough EE champions in the House (Peter Welch D-VT is really the only true advocate and he is running for Leahy's Senate seat) and they are looking for new champions.
 - o Sean Castin D-IL might be one who could take the EE mantle, but hasn't yet emerged as a leader.
 - o Rep Tonko D-NY has also been a supporter of our resources.
 - o Mike Levin D-CA has been strong on renewables and will have a tough reelection bid.
 - o Frank Pallone D-NJ has also been active in this space.
- There is some concern about scale-back of IJJA funds in a new R-controlled Congress.

3. Other updates

Greg reported that we continue to coordinate with other EE trade associations from around the country to push our specific agenda. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 1/18 at 10-11 Pacific (reach out to Greg or Serj if you would like to join that call).

- To that end, Steve Schiller has suggested that there be an update to a study done by the Council more than a decade ago that looked at what is happening in terms of EE trade advocacy around the country.
- This new updated study would look to refresh that effort, but also would include a call to action which will be helpful as we advocate our interests to groups and potential allies outside of CA.
- There seems to be a lot of interest among the various trade groups to participate in such a study effort.

- Greg and Steve reached out to Steve Cowell (E4theFuture) to gauge interest and see if they might be able to offer support via grant funding. Greg will be sending Steve Cowell the concept paper this week sometime.

Next Meeting

Our next Federal MWG meeting will be on Wednesday February 9th at 8:15 am. Call-in coordinates are below.

[Zoom link](#)

Call-in: +13126266799,,83592457581#

Passcode: cedmc2022